
Harper's
BAZAAR
INDIA
DELENG/2014/59909
APRIL-MAY 2023, ₹200
KRITI SANON
STEPS INTO THE LIGHT
FACE OF THE FUTURE
BEAUTY'S BOLD, NEW VISION FOR THE COMING YEARS
THE JEWELLERY CHRONICLES WITH
RHEA KAPOOR
SUMMER RENAISSANCE
THE FRESHEST STYLES OF THE SEASON

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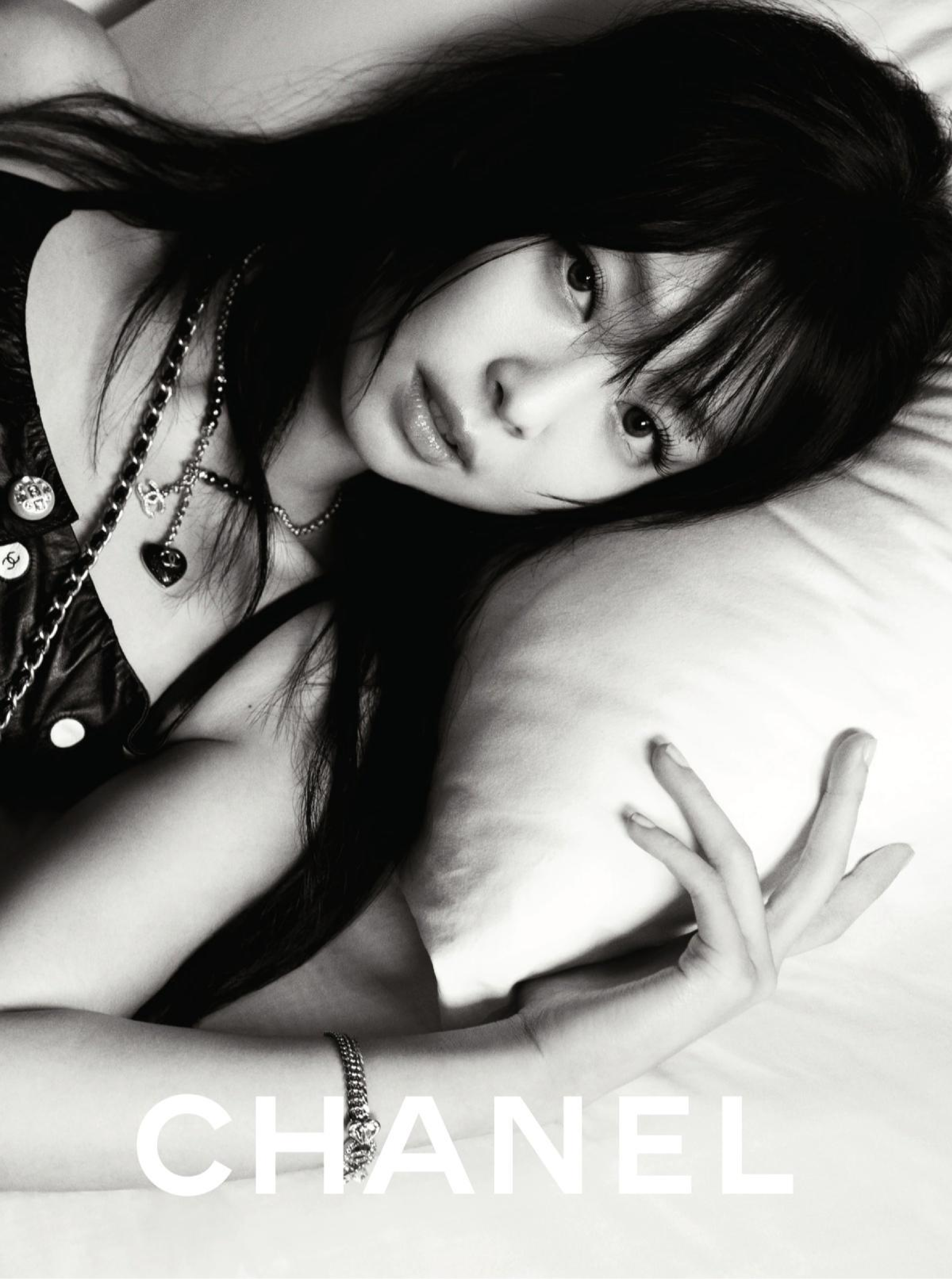


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Harper's BAZAAR INDIA

APRIL-MAY 2023



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Covergirl Kriti Sanon on loving a good challenge, accepting constructive criticsm, honing her craft, and more.

Cover Look

Kriti Sanon is wearing a Sartorial Popeline Shirt and Techno Duchesse Midi Skirt, both Valentino; Windsor Necklace, Cartier. Photographer: Taras Taraporvala at Inega. Stylist: Edward Lalrempuia at The Artists Project. Hair: Gabriel Georgiou at Anima Creative Management. Make-up: Shraddha Naik. Videographer: Ratnakar Vallabh. Fashion Assistants: Asu Longkumer and Rachel Simte. Production: P Productions.

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IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS.



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Harper's BAZAAR INDIA

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Opulent furnishings in muted tones blended with abstract prints to add an elegant touch to your abode.

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EDITOR'S LETTER

THE *Summer* ISSUE

The sun is shining, its molten-gold rays beaming through our windows...

The Indian summer is certainly a special one, with endless days, vivid blossoms, and ripened fruits...and golden skies that set the ground ablaze.

From a fashion magazine's point of view, the Indian summer is also the longest style-season of the year, beginning sooner than in the rest of the world, and ending months later. Which is why many of us tend to invest more attention and time into our warm-weather wardrobes. This issue of *Harper's Bazaar* aims to make that task easier, with a special focus on the season's most stylish pieces. On page 136, the many tones of blue invite you to dip into the trend...and, perhaps, adopt the heart of a calm, aquamarine ocean. If a beach escape is on your mind (and in your calendar), allow us to introduce you to truly delightful swimwear—whether you are looking for sustainable options or striking pieces that can be taken from the pool to a party, there is inspiration aplenty in the pages ahead. Sometimes, a summer holiday—or just some quiet time with your thoughts—can prompt an urge to contemplate the meaning of life. If the impulse strikes, you'll find food for thought in our compelling series of essays—*Date With Destiny*...These writings, by *Bazaar* columnists, examine the role of fate—and free will—to arrive at intriguing conclusions.

Before I go, I'd like to leave you with this beautiful quote by novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald: "And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

I hope that this summer, you find your place in the sun. ■



GUCCI 25H Skeleton Tourbillon Watch, Gucci, price on request







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Maison De Famille Bag, Louis Vuitton, price on request

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IMAGE: COURTESY THE BRAND.

Bazaar CONTRIBUTORS



SHRADDHA NAIK

Celebrity make-up artist Shraddha Naik has over a decade of experience. Having worked with various international magazines, and in 20 films, Shraddha wielded her brushes to create a soft-glamour look for our covergirl, actor Kriti Sanon. Shraddha shares, "Working for the current issue of *Harper's Bazaar* India was a great experience. And I am so glad that the magazine allowed me the creative freedom to create varied make-up looks for Kriti."



SHRUTI HAASAN

Actor and playback singer Shruti Haasan made her Bollywood debut with the film *Luck* [2009], and went on to establish herself in the South Indian film industry with successful Telugu films such as *Race Gurram* [2014] and *Srimanthudu* [2015]. Shruti shares how the responsibility to turn our life around rests on us, in *Date With Destiny* for the latest issue of *Bazaar* India. The actor quips, "Your faith in yourself is what defines your path."



CHANDRAHAS PRABHU

Chandrahas Prabhu is a Mumbai-based fashion and commercial photographer. For the latest issue of *Harper's Bazaar* India, the lensman fashionably captures the varied hues of blue in *Deep as the Ocean*. Chandrahas shares, "As a photographer, I seek creative freedom in any project I am a part of. It helps me interpret photographs in my own way. With *Harper's Bazaar* India, every editorial shoot is so unique and versatile… It is an absolute pleasure working with *Bazaar* India."



NEHA DHUPIA

Actor Neha Dhupia was crowned *Miss India* 2002 at the age of 22, and is best known for her eponymous podcast *#NoFilterNeha*. In the *So Bazaar* section, Neha pens an essay about charting her own destiny in *Date With Destiny*. The actor shares, "I realise that destiny is a confluence of the right place, the right time, the right circumstance, and your best efforts."



KUBBRA SAIT

The 39-year-old actor, TV host, and author is best known for her role in *Sacred Games* [2018]. After adding critically-acclaimed films like *Sultan* [2016] and *Gully Boy* [2019] to her repertoire, Kubbra recently published her book entitled *Open Book: Not Quite a Memoir*. In the latest issue of *Bazaar* India, she shares how we are in charge of the outcomes that we desire, and writes, "Destiny is an amalgam of consistent choices made with awareness."



TARAS TARAPORVALA

Taras Taraporvala is based out of Mumbai, and is known for his glamorous fashion editorial shoots. For *Bazaar* India's latest issue, Taras captures actor Kriti Sanon in *An Unstoppable Force*. The lensman shares, "The magazine brought together the best production team for the shoot, including talented make-up artists, stylists, and other crew. It is always a great experience working with *Harper's Bazaar* India."

IMAGES COURTESY: THE CONTRIBUTORS.



BAZAAR STYLE

BREAK NEW GROUND

This season, make way for a dressier version of swimwear, wear homegrown labels that experiment with local craft, and revel in summer's most stylish moments.

On Sushmita (left): Cochinella Ruched Cut-Out Maillot, Shivan & Narresh, ₹32,950; Firecracker Studs, Radhika Agrawal Jewels, ₹4,500
On Chhavi (right): Ivory High-Leg Maillot with Cru Trim, Shivan & Narresh, ₹19,950; Blossom Print Shirt, Tory Burch, price on request; floral statement earrings, Kate Spade, ₹10,500

Photographs by **Neha Punjabi**
Styling by **Devki Bhatt**

HAIR AND MAKE-UP: KHUSHBOO SONI. FASHION ASSISTANTS: KRUTIKA SHARMA AND NEHA SARKAR.



TAKE THE PLUNGE

The chicest beachwear offerings in playful prints...reminiscent of the tropics, rich tones that signal retro elegance, and flattering cover-ups.

Photographs by
NEHA PUNJABI
Styling by
DEVKI BHATT

Blossom Print Shirt, Tory Burch, price on request; Cochinella Ruched Cut-Out Maillot, Shivan and Narresh, ₹32,950; floral statement earrings, Kate Spade, ₹10,500



On Chhavi (left): Wrap puff sleeve top, Dhruv Kapoor, ₹14,500; Jaiscape High-waisted Bikini Bottoms, Shivan & Narresh, ₹6,950; Dove Floppy Hat, Myaraa by Namrata Lodha, ₹2,799

On Sushmita (right): Bra top and pants, Nupur Kanoi, ₹29,800; Dove Floppy Hat, Myaraa by Namrata Lodha, ₹2,799



Hand-embroidered Himachal Bustier and Skirt, Rahul Mishra, price on request; cape, Verandah, ₹39,900; Diamond Cane Earrings, ₹6,500, Valliyan



Cochinella Ruched Cut-Out Maillot, Shivan & Narresh, ₹32,950; floral statement earrings, Kate Spade, ₹10,500



Cochinella Ruched Cut-Out Maillot, Shivan & Narresh, ₹32,950; Flower Bed Appliqué Shirt, Kanika Goyal Label, price on request; floral statement earrings, Kate Spade, ₹10,500



Ivory Multi Bougainvillea Print Swimsuit, Verandah, ₹15,500; metallic holographic jacket, Kanika Goyal Label, price on request; Aten Chrome Hoops, Radhika Agrawal Jewels, ₹3,950

Hair and make-up: Khushboo Soni. Fashion assistants: Neha Sarkar and Krutika Sharma.

TOP KNOT



Chanel 22 Métiers d'art Collection Hobo Bag, price on request

This mini macramé handbag lends the perfect amount of 70s-style, warm-weather flair, and also comes with an extra set of straps so it can be worn as a cross-body.

PHOTOGRAPHY: AKIRA. STYLING BY: MIGUEL ENAMORADO.

Tailored TWIST

This summer, celebrate the confluence of business and pleasure with form-fitting, structured short suits.


1


2


3


STELLA MCCARTNEY


BOSS


CHANEL


SAAKSHA & KINNI


QUA


4 5 6 7 8

1. Check wool cotton jacquard tailored jacket, ₹1,63,245, and side stripe vintage check stretch cotton shorts, ₹47,582, both Burberry. 2. Single-breasted fluid drill jacket, ₹2,62,956, and wool silk pants, ₹1,31,481, both Gucci. 3. Linen blazer, ₹40,854, and relaxed fit long pleated linen shorts, ₹18,704, both Ralph Lauren. 4. Pave Dotted Ring (Gold Vermeil), Arvino, ₹7,500. 5. B-Dazzle Green Crystal Resin Ring, Isharya, ₹7,699. 6. Amphora Ring, Misho, ₹6,695. 7. Chunky Domed Ring with Asymmetrical Rhinestone Embellishment and a Textured Finish, Saint Laurent, price on request. 8. Looking Back Ring, Eina Ahluwalia, ₹7,450.

IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY PRIYANKA KATHURIA.



Cartier Beautés du Monde High Jewellery Necklace, Cartier, price on request

SLITHER AWAY

Embrace your fierce side with sinuous, ophidian-inspired bijoux—featuring a jumbo rubellite tourmaline and diamond scales—coiled around the neck.

PHOTOGRAPHY: FLORENT TANET. ACCESSORIES DIRECTOR: MIGUEL ENAMORADO. PROP STYLING: ELLA PERDEREAU.

DENIM Dynasty

The much-loved fabric gets an upgrade through crisp silhouettes and fine details.



DHRUV KAPOOR



DIESEL



RARA AVIS



AK-OK

1



2



3



4



5 6 7 8



1. Regular fit jacket in rigid denim, Hugo Boss, ₹16,800. 2. Denim trucker jacket, Massimo Dutti, ₹7,290. 3. Jacket, Diesel, ₹36,999. 4. Cropped denim trucker jacket, Ralph Lauren, ₹24,270. 5. Aura Gold Swirl Hoop Earrings, Isharya, ₹7,999. 6. Gema Drop Earrings, Swarovski, ₹16,500. 7. Sylphina Ziptail Earrings, Outhouse Jewellery, ₹11,500. 8. Gold and silver polki cross earrings, Valliyan, ₹13,390.

IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY ANUSHKA PANDEY.



WHY DON'T YOU...

...blossom into your main character with a pair of shoes that is decorated with sweet, vermilion-hued florals.

Keira Floral-Embellished Sandals from the Happy Garden Collection, Dolce & Gabbana, price on request

PHOTOGRAPHY: EFRAIM EVIDOR. STYLING: LAURA JANE BROWN.



MOMENT in the Sun

Keep your spirits high with hues inspired by the sunset sky—consider shades like tangerine, fiery red, bright yellow, et al.

1. Bias cut satin and tulle dress, AKHL, ₹33,400. 2. Ripple Cuff, Misho, ₹15,707. 3. Evolution Gorilla Insignia T-shirt, Huemn, ₹6,500. 4. Peterson Sunglasses, John Jacobs, ₹6,000. 5. Rhoda Earrings, Deepa Gurnani, ₹17,200. 6. Mariza du Désert Espadrilles, Christian Louboutin, ₹77,521 approx. 7. Tabby Shoulder Bag, Coach, ₹36,914 approx. 8. Crepe jersey hooded dress, Saint Laurent, ₹3,68,298 approx. 9. Gold-tone floral analog watch, Guess, ₹11,094 approx. 10. Satin wide-leg trousers, Burberry, price on request. 11. Hayā Bucket Bag, AMPM, ₹24,950. 12. Tassel sole sandals, Love Moschino, ₹ 21,737 approx. 13. Diamond chain necklace, Jimmy Choo, ₹58,500 approx.

IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY ANOUSHKA SINHA.

Wish LIST

WEAVE SOME MAGIC

Small D-Bubble Bucket Bag, Christian Dior, price on request



Add texture and summer romance to your outfit with the freshest version of the raffia bag.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL ZAK. STYLING: CRYSTALLE COX.

1




2

3


15


14

4


5


13

6


12


11

7

8


10


9


Polished CLASSICS

This season, reliable utilitarian offerings come with delicate, feminine details for a sophisticated finish.

1. Cowl hoodie bodysuit, Versace, ₹1,10,100. 2. Zaza Sunglasses, Cult Gaia, ₹19,300. 3. Gradient Moon-o-gram Top, Moonray, ₹7,600. 5. Cargo pants, Louis Vuitton, price on request. 6. Rainbow Bracket Sapphire Earrings, Studio Renn, price on request. 7. Daakiya Cork Satchel, Studio Beej, ₹6,950. 5. Triplet Hoops, Misho, ₹8,755. 7. Daakiya Cork Satchel, Studio Beej, ₹6,950. 8. Btrippy Crossbody, Steve Madden, ₹9,999. 9. W.G. Lace-up Ankle Boots, Tod's, price on request. 10. Claires Leather Sneakers, Bally, price on request. 11. Ivory Wave Ring, Amaris by Prerna Rajpal, ₹66,000. 12. Cotton gabardine dress, Christian Dior, price on request. 13. Shantung Cargo Ankle Trousers, Ralph Lauren, ₹24,270. 14. Molten Dropchain Earrings, The Line, ₹35,000. 15. Capsule Belt Bag, Nappa Dori, ₹7,500.

IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY RHEA KIMBERLY MITRA.

FLOWER POWER



1

At first blush



Sunglasses, Giorgio Armani at Sunglass Hut, ₹23,090

2

Wrap it up



Vivian Bandeau Top, Āroka, ₹4,500

3

Stop and smell the roses



Florere Cocktail Ring, Swarovski, ₹35,000

4

Blossom forth



Maxi flower scarf, Gucci, ₹40,608 approx

5

Move ahead



Walk'N'Dior Sneakers, Christian Dior, price on request

6

Clip-on



Sorrel Vine Brooch, Moonray, ₹8,400

7

Carry on



Sam Icon Bouquet Embellished Tote, Kate Spade, ₹32,650 approx

KEEP

- *Statement bijouterie*
- *Skirt suits*
- *Floral sneakers*

RECYCLE

- *Wide-legged jeans*
- *Cut-out dresses*
- *Button-down shirts*

8

In full bloom



Printed down jacket, Tory Burch, ₹53,162 approx

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY RHEA KIMBERLY MITRA.


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Once in a while, break away from the rigid lines with flowy, asymmetrical skirts and muted mules to make a subtle statement.


1


2


3


4


MARQUES' ALMEIDA


STELLA MCCARTNEY


GIAMBATTISTA VALLI


ETRO


SACAI

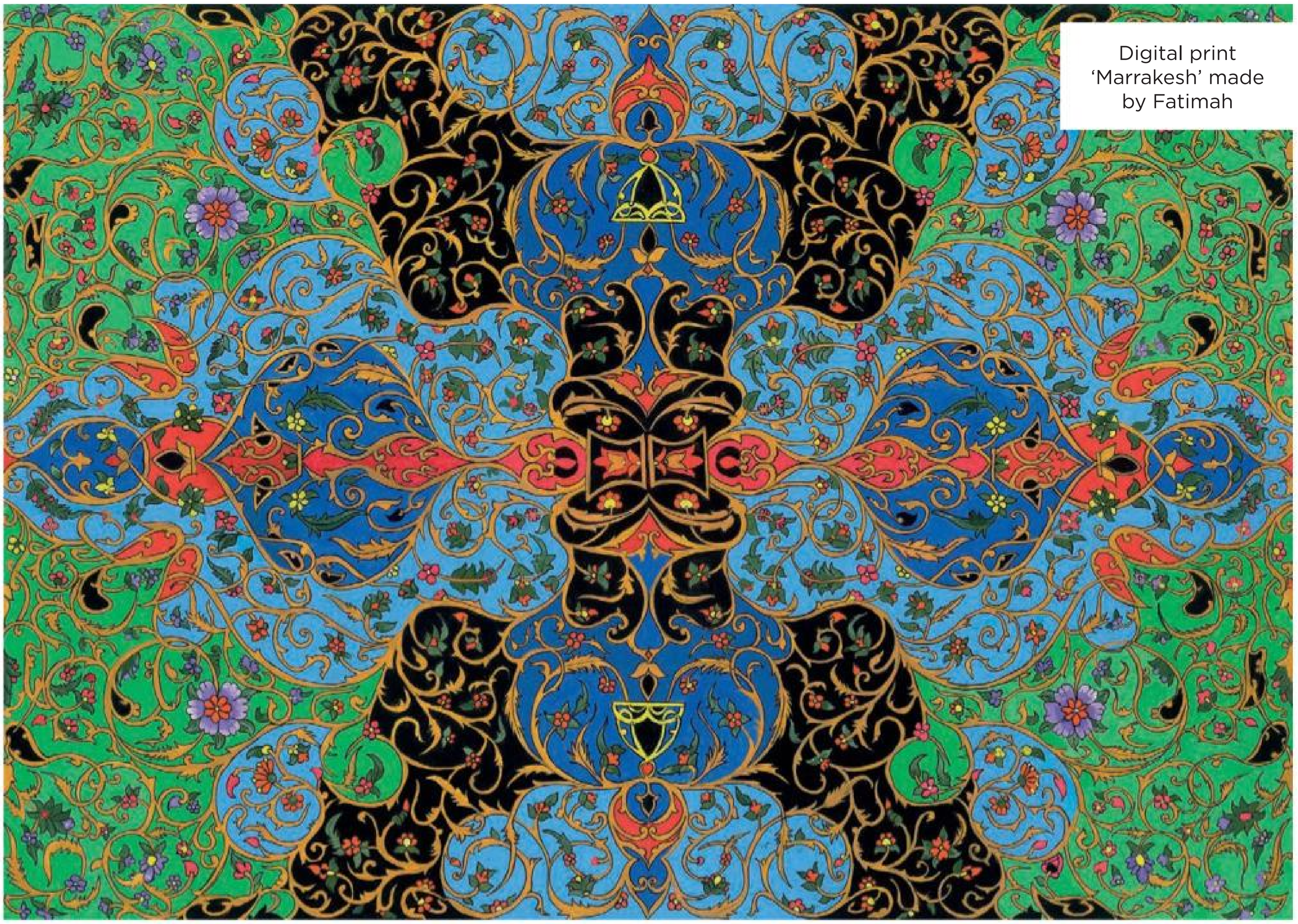
1. Fluid asymmetric tailored skirt, Tom Ford, ₹1,62,400 approx. 2. Draped satin skirt, Bloni, ₹12,775. 3. Foliage Garden Skirt, QUOD, ₹16,499 4. Orchid Pleated Midi Skirt, Versace, price on request. 5. Knot Mules, Bottega Veneta, ₹1,22,000 approx. 6. Heart Chain Sandals, Love Moschino, ₹33,200 approx. 7. Indiana Mules, Louis Vuitton, price on request. 8. Platform block heel mules, Charles & Keith, ₹7,499.


5 6 7 8


JAJAABOR

IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY RHEA KIMBERLY MITRA.


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Digital print 'Marrakesh' made by Fatimah

GREENING THE BLUE

Artist and an Afghan refugee, Fatimah Farhad collaborates with men's swimwear brand Rey&I...giving way to a collection that communicates her unwavering love for art and the importance of representation.

By RIA SINGH

Harper's Bazaar: Nishant, tell us about your brand...

Nishant Singhal: "Rey&I is a men's swimwear brand, leading up to resort wear. The idea is to make men feel comfortable so they do not have to compromise with high street swimwear brands. I wanted to bring something unique to the table...Rey&I fills a niche between fast fashion and high-end swimwear brands—hitting a sweet spot in terms of pricing."

HB: Fatimah, tell us how your journey with Rey&I began...What approach did you take while designing this swimwear collection?

Fatimah Farhad: "Nishant [Singhal], the founder of Rey&I, was working with my father [Akbar Farhad] when he visited us at our home in India. He appreciated the symmetry and intricacy of my artwork and commissioned four paintings. I recall contemplating whether this project would be completed in time, but I managed to finish the designs in just a month! I wanted all my designs to be distinctive... My approach towards fabricating this swimwear collection was driven by the desire to take forward my father's art legacy—and to share our story through a unique medium."

IMAGE COURTESY: THE BRANDS.



HB: Tell us the story behind the Plaj collection...

FF: "Plaj is inspired by the rich heritage of Afghanistan and comprises four colourful prints that evoke the intricacy of luxurious Afghan carpets. The prints in this collection speak the language of creativity, expression, and celebration...which are forbidden in Afghanistan. In a country where women have little to no freedom, I am proud to have made such designs. This project gives a voice to refugees, painting them as individuals and professionals who are known for their talent and potential. My father has 45 years of experience in water painting and wood burning, and is my sole inspiration for this collection."

HB: Tell us about your life as a refugee...

FF: "I was all of 10-years-old when I escaped to India... You have to leave behind all certainties and comfort; your home, job, family and friends. It's like restarting your life from scratch and entering a new Universe. In Afghanistan, creativity is considered to be *haram* (forbidden), and my father was forced to terminate his passion. Thankfully, rebuilding my life in India was not as hard, because I had my family beside me—and the pleasure to work on what I enjoyed most: art."

HB: What is the significance of artistic expression in your life?

FF: "Artistic expression allowed me to become a voice for other refugees who have the potential and refused to be stifled. Art and miniatures are the love of my life; I cannot think about living without them...it's extremely important to me."

HB: Nishant, tell us about your special collaboration with Fatimah...

NS: "I was blown away by her [Fatimah's] work... The intricate designs she creates are spellbinding. Bringing together like-minded people from different backgrounds to create something unique is what the power of collaboration is all about. The idea is to find promising emerging artists who wouldn't otherwise have a platform to showcase their talent and works."

HB: Tell us about the techniques Rey&I employ to create more sustainable products...

NS: "There is plenty of plastic and garbage floating around in the Pacific Ocean—which makes its way to the Yamuna River. Witnessing this ecological deterioration is what got the ball rolling, as I decided to repurpose and re-use plastic in my brand. In addition, the fish nets found in the ocean contain adequate amounts of nylon, which we repurposed to make synthetic material. To walk you through the process...the waste is melted down and the nylon is fished out and made into small pellets. Then, it is spun into a yarn and the yarn becomes a fabric. We ensure that the manufacturing is done in an ethical and sustainable manner." ■





(Clockwise from top left) Fatimah hand-painting her designs; Byblos, Tangier, and Antalya swimwear shorts from the Plaj collection; Nishant Singhal, Founder of Rey&I



(From top) Kylie Jenner in Schiaparelli at Paris Couture Week; Doja Cat decked in 30,000 Swarovski crystals at Paris Couture Week

Loewe

Gaurav Gupta

Rahul Mishra

WEIRD *is the New Normal*

Is surrealism the strongest fashion trend?

By KATERINA PAPAPOSTOLOU

"Surrealism aims to revolutionise the human experience. It balances a rational vision of life by affirming the power of the unconscious and dreams. The artists of the movement find magic and strange beauty in the unexpected, the despised, and the unconventional. At the core of their works is the search for freedom and the willingness to question imposed values and rules." This is the definition of surrealism on the website of Tate Modern [an art gallery located in London], which I borrow to put you in a climate beyond reality. Historically, the word 'surrealist' was coined by French poet Guillaume Apollinaire and appeared for the first time in the prologue of a play in 1917. But it was André Breton who wrote the *Manifesto of Surrealism* in 1924. In the world of fashion in 2023, surrealism and fashion move on the same trajectory.

Take note of Daniel Roseberry's recent Couture 2023 show for Schiaparelli—there was little analysis behind the real inspiration of the animal heads that were on display. The controversial collection was a contemporary take on Dante's *Inferno*. These surrealistic references, that Roseberry brought to life, were reimagined versions of the legendary poem's three allegorical animals: the lion, the leopard, and the she-wolf.

As those creations took the Internet by storm, it is no surprise that from the beginning of the rise of Schiaparelli, the House's designs have always initiated strong conversations about surrealism. Even Schiaparelli's famous creation, known as the Desk Suit—a design inspired by Salvador Dali's 1936 Venus de Milo with Drawers, the sleek tagger with pockets, masterfully sewn by Lesage in the Trompe-l'œil technique to represent the drawers of Dali's sculpture... This creation opened the doors of weird fashion that defied reality. Think Schiaparelli's The Tears Dress designed in 1938 as part of the Circus Collection. Considered to be one of her most famous designs, even though the creation is simple in

shape...the garment showcases elements of surrealism. The creation, which almost looked like torn flesh, did not only arouse extreme reactions in the late ’30s, but also influenced the fashion for all in its subsequent history.

The Paris Couture Week 2023 set an example of how bizarre reigned supreme. Closer home, designer Gaurav Gupta’s sculptural creations from the collection Shunya were recently showcased at the Paris Haute Couture Week. Inspired by fantasy and surrealism, Gaurav shared, “I wanted to delve deeper into our mindscape to come up with a concept that is subliminal in thought and original in form. I have tried to explore the movement possibilities between zero and infinity.”

Also at Paris Couture Week, designer Rahul Mishra represented the Universe and native Indian philosophy in his ethereal collection Cosmos, by bringing together jellyfish, birds, planets, and oceans, resulting in glittering creations. Viktor & Rolf, too, put up a whimsical show—where models walked the runway in tulle, princess gowns, and multi-tiered dresses that were flipped in every possible direction.

One can also clearly notice the design excesses at Loewe’s SS 2023 show, where lines of reality got blurred, thanks to ‘pixelated’ creations resembling a real-life Minecraft game. These may not be obvious choices in the world of fashion where glam is associated with the glitter-strewn dream, but they are clearly connected to the subconscious—where dreams actually reside.

In an everyday life where fake news parades proudly, the surrealism of fashion seems more relevant than ever. From Alexander McQueen’s summer 1997 collection, Phoebe Philo’s Celine furry shoes in 2013, to the clogs from Birkenstock’s opening ceremony emblazoned with works by Belgian artist René Magritte, fashion has proven throughout the decades that it loves to go hand in hand with surrealism.

Today, creations in the world of fashion mirror the chaotic situation currently prevailing in the world, and indicate the collapse of reality and what it means today. This is the fashion of 2023—a balloon that transforms into a shoe, dresses worn upside down, belts with ears and a nose... Designers, today, are elevating the anxieties of the present by equating fashion with art. ■



Viktor & Rolf

Schiaparelli



The Desk Suit creation by Schiaparelli, inspired by the works of Salvador Dali



Viktor & Rolf



Schiaparelli



Rahul Mishra



(From left) The iconic Tear Dress by Schiaparelli; Furry shoes from the SS 2013 collection by Celine



Gaurav Gupta



Gaurav Gupta



Birkenstock joined forces with René Magritte in 2021

INDIA PROUD

Consumers harbour a new sense of pride in wearing homegrown labels and investing in craft-centric designs.

By MANISH MISHRA



IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS.



There was a time when handloom products were considered unrefined... Over the last decade, however, an array of indigenous, India-proud brands have managed to alter that perception to a large extent. Today, craft-based pieces—created with love, and realised from locally-sourced textiles—are hailed as impossibly-chic. Labels like Ekaya, Eka, Doodlage, and Shruti Sancheti have ushered in an era of the handwoven and the handloom, inhabited with an Indian soul, yet reflecting a global design sensibility.

Palak Shah, CEO of Ekaya Banaras, observes that the dated perception about textile-centric offerings is changing, but it still hasn't changed 100 percent. "There's still a big market left to be tapped. Traditionally, the positioning of handlooms, in general, has been occasionwear (primarily for Indian occasions). However, it needs to move into the couture space," says Palak.

Ekaya's campaign, Ambush, styled with a modern and experimental approach, was an effort to alter the perception of how handloom is viewed. "For Ambush, my brief was that I wanted the handloom to be celebrated as something fun. I've always believed that the brand's offerings need to be presented in a way people are going to accept it, while maintaining the sanctity of the craft," Palak adds.



EKA

In all of the brand's communications, Ekaya mentions the number of hours that have gone into crafting each product. "The idea is to make our clients understand that they can get so much more use out of it, so they treat it with respect," Palak shares.

Kriti Tula, Creative Director and co-owner of Doodlage, observes that homegrown creations belong to a growing niche, and more so in the masstige price range (₹4,500-₹6,000). "This means that working and travelling younger Indian consumers are increasingly investing in artisanal, handloom, and homegrown quality products over mindless consumption," says Kriti, who also points out that now the conversation is more around how hard or easy it is going to be for her to maintain this material. Labels like Doodlage and Eka have explored traditional crafts in minimal designs for everyday pieces which fit effortlessly into one's wardrobe. Designer Rina Singh of Eka notes that more and more designers and consumers are proudly championing the homegrown aesthetic. "In my opinion, Sonam Kapoor Ahuja began this trend—she confidently wears Indian designers at international events. Such instances help pivot the fashion landscape," Rina expresses. "A lot of young designers are pushing the boundary by creating products that have an extremely modern aesthetic. And customers love to mix and match and create offbeat, eclectic looks," she adds.

Textiles that are handcrafted and handwoven do come with their own challenges, particularly in terms of rendering them into modern shapes and coordinates.

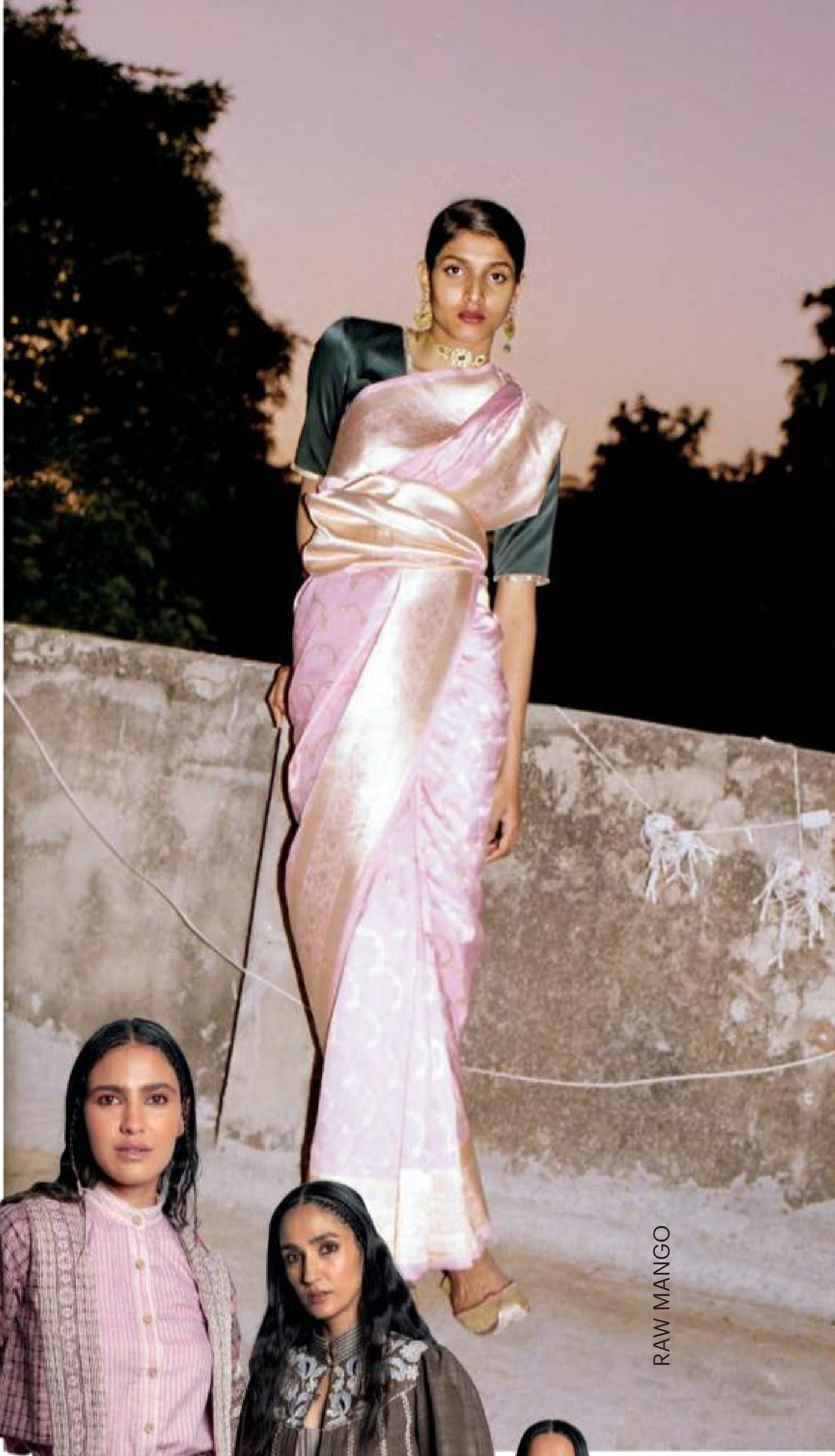


"Textiles need to be handled skillfully. And often, the pieces don't even get included in the final range. This could be because of the limitations of the process or the weavers, with regards to experimentation...the fall of the fabrics can be hugely challenging in such cases. But then again, we see such spectacular results as well," adds Rina.

India has an unsurpassed legacy of weaves, textiles, and craft, and Indian designers have inherited a treasure trove of design and art. Designer Shruti Sancheti shares, "The world is looking towards Indian craftsmanship, and it is indeed heartening to see the global applause to indigenous labels. It is also encouraging to see the Indian consumer take pride in homegrown labels, flaunting them gloriously at domestic and international events. With increasing urbanisation and rapid digital growth, the Indian client, though spoilt for choice, is finally considering the supremacy of their own talent."

India is one of the few countries where weaving is not extinct, and woven traditions in each part of the country have been handed down for generations. "These glorious handlooms were extremely beautiful, but sadly not relevant, as they were coarse and without contemporary design intervention. However, with the introduction of fresh design philosophy and technology, the handlooms have become more luxurious, fluid, and au courant, and people are finding it stylish and appealing to adorn," she adds.

Moreover, the juxtaposition of various crafts and surface ornamentation, along with handwoven fabrics in a contemporary, relevant manner, adds a global language. "It can be extremely challenging to make contemporary, relevant separates from traditional textiles; pieces that are modern, trendy, versatile, and easy to wear. As a label, we try to incorporate modern details like stitch lines, quilting, ribs, and embroidered motifs, as well as globally relevant silhouettes and indigenous printing techniques to bring the product at par with global standards. These separates are an introduction to slow fashion...to an audience which is inherently only exposed to fads and trends," adds Shruti. ■



RAW MANGO





(From left) A model in Ekaya's ensemble from the Ambush collection; models in Shruti Sancheti ensembles


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A still from *Murder Msytery 2*

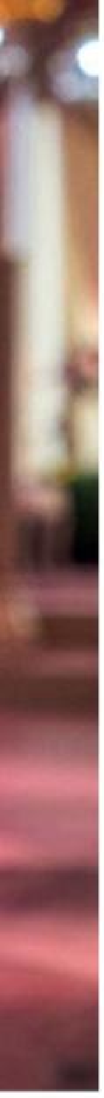

Debra McGuire

THE ONE WHERE RACHEL WEARS INDIAN COUTURE

Bazaar India speaks to legendary costume designer Debra Mcguire about gender-fluidity in fashion, the trends that have stood the test of time, and dressing Jennifer Aniston in Manish Malhotra finery.
By MEGHNA SHARMA

Harper's Bazaar: You are a multi-hyphenate, dabbling in art, fashion, jewellery design, and more. Which role brings you the most creative satisfaction?
Debra Mcguire: "I have the ability to dive deep in order to stay inspired and engaged. If I am not getting enough in one area, then I must move into another. Sometimes, costume work is extremely creative; sometimes, not so much. When it's not, I make time to be in my studio and paint. I do think my future will have much more studio time in it."
HB: Through *F.R.I.E.N.D.S*, one of the most-watched shows ever, you gave us some truly unforgettable style moments. What would you say are the key pillars of a stylish wardrobe?
DM: "I designed the clothes to fit each character in the show. And I designed by colour palette and texture since the group of six was often together making a visual assemblage. Ross was seen in earthy corduroys, Chandler in vintage tweeds, Joey in flannels and textures, Monica in grey, white, black, and reds; Jennifer in blues and greens; and Phoebe in flowy patterns. This defined them and made each character unique. Personally, my advice is to 'know thyself'. Dress for your body, because a certain trend may not be right for you. And learn how to express yourself through shoes and accessories if the clothes don't agree with your body."
HB: You worked with Jennifer Aniston on *F.R.I.E.N.D.S* for over a decade, along with several other projects. What was it like working with her again for *Murder Mystery 2*?





DM: "Working with Jennifer is a gift that doesn't stop giving. We have so much history and trust, which, in this industry, is extremely rare. Jennifer knows herself and her body and works hard to stay in the best shape."

HB: The *Murder Mystery 2* plot revolves around a royal Indian wedding. How did you zero in on Indian couturier Manish Malhotra for Jennifer Aniston's character's wedding look?

DM: "We found Manish after extensive research and travel in India. I had also reached out to friends in India and Indian journalists, to learn more about his [Manish's] work. Initially, I wasn't sure what direction I would go with Jennifer's character. While collaborating with Sakshi [Dosaj] at Dream Collection in Los Angeles, I met her son and his fiancé who were about to be married. They invited me to their sangeet and wedding. This event inspired me to dress Jennifer and Adam [Sandler] in traditional Indian clothes, instead of something hybrid."

HB: What did you like about Manish Malhotra's designs?

DM: "I loved the quality and spectacular beadwork. By this time, I had seen thousands of designs and my eye was well trained to recognise good craftsmanship. After all, this was scripted as a maharajah's sangeet...it needed to look expensive and royal!"

HB: Did you come across any other Indian designers that left an impact on you?

DM: "Yes, many. Papa Don't Preach by Shubhika is another Indian designer that I was attracted to for the level of originality in their design and beadwork. These pieces stood out! Melanie Laurant wears a red one-shoulder design that really spoke to me."

"I DO LIKE WHAT'S HAPPENING [IN FASHION], LIKE GENDER-FLUID DESIGNS—MEN IN SKIRTS AND DRESSES, CROSSING GENDER BOUNDARIES."

HB: You have been working in fashion for over 50 years. Tell us about the most prominent trends that you have seen coming back over and over again.

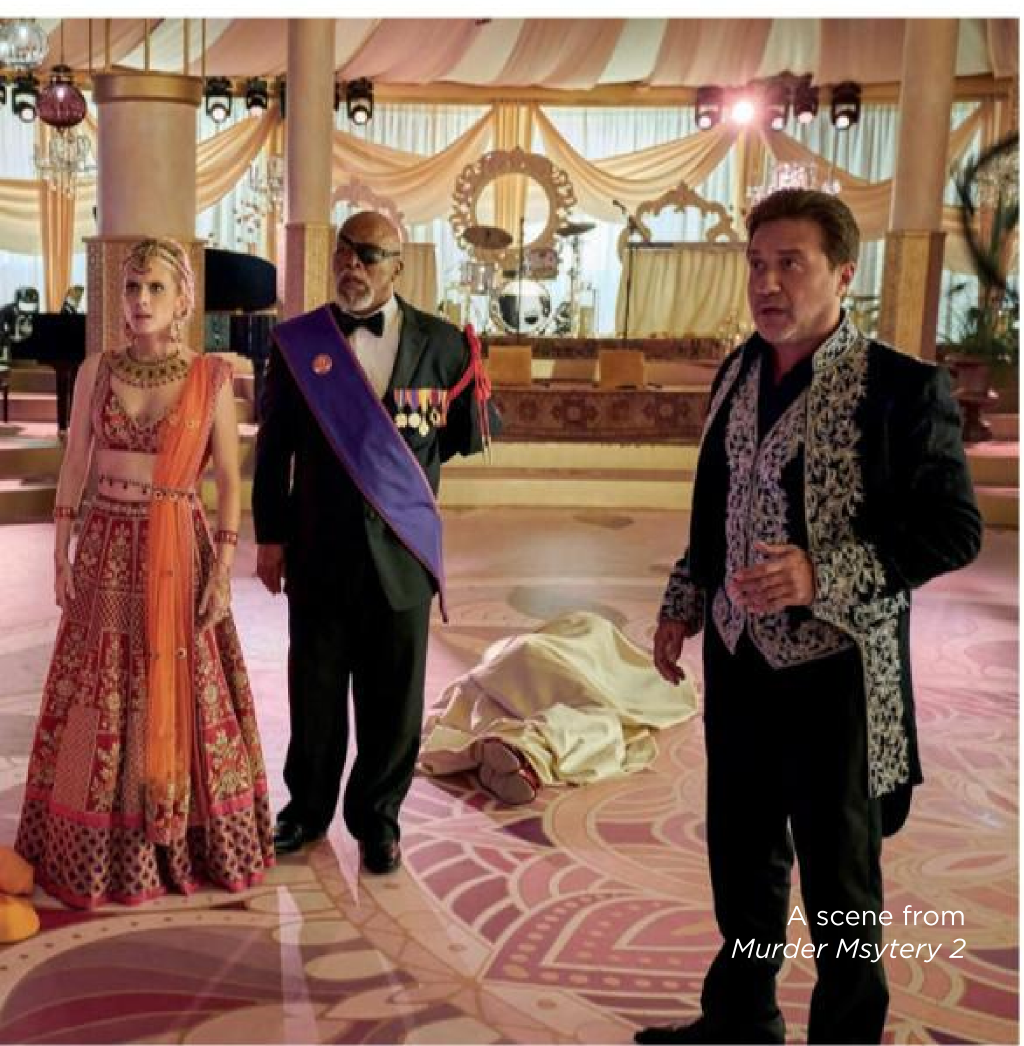
DM: "I have always said that trends are about common sense. If the trend has been mini skirts, the next trend will be a longer hemline...if we haven't seen women in men's suits for a while, that will be just around the corner. If big accessories have been trending for a few years, then minimalism can be expected next. Same with colours and prints. I remember, in the '90s, when I had the buyers from Bergdorf Goodman come in to see my latest collection. They had been in a no-colour, classic mode...my designs were colourful and edgy. They weren't the least bit interested. I was a season too soon...and the next season was all about it. So, the timing has to be right as well."

HB: For many seasons now, the biggest moments in fashion are often a redux of '80s and '90s trends. What makes these two decades so important in fashion history that designers keep going back to them for inspiration?"

DM: "These eras were so different! The '80s had a very broad range—from earthy to bold colours and patterns, very large accessories, shoulder pads, acid washes, high waists, among others. Then came the '90s...while oversized styles continued to trend, we also became more body conscious. Jewellery became minimal or disappeared completely. To be honest, the 1980s and 1990s were not my favourite fashion eras. I mostly wore Japanese designs during that period. But I think we keep going back to them because our children keep discovering them for the first time."

HB: Lastly, what, according to you, is the future of fashion?

DM: "I am not sure. Everything has changed in the last few years because of Internet, social media, fashion bloggers, and influencers. It is another world to me! I find it harder and harder to find things that I love. However, I do like what's happening, like the gender-fluid designs—men dressed in skirts and dresses, crossing gender boundaries. I also think it's time to see more body types on the runway. Fashion needs to promote expression and diversity. I also love that consciousness has been raised regarding sustainability. There is just too much waste on this planet and we all need to get involved and be responsible for the choices we make." ■



A scene from *Murder Msytery 2*



Marilyn Monroe

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTYIMAGES.COM



SWIMWEAR IS THE NEW READY-TO-WEAR

Beach chic is no longer confined to a pool party...as designers mix swim pieces and party separates with great gusto.

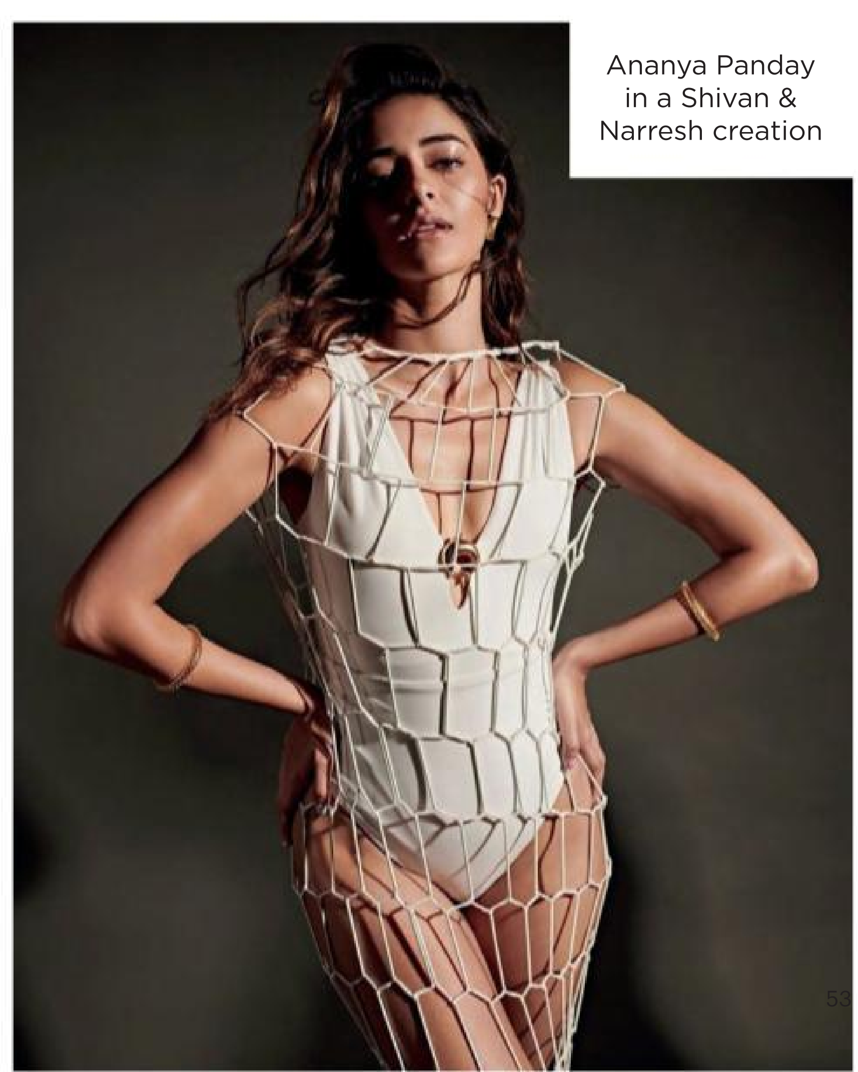
By MANISH MISHRA

If you thought swimwear was meant for just relaxing by the pool, then you've got it wrong. Resort design mavens (or should we call them swimwear mixologists?) have diversified the beachwear category into versatile and utilitarian pieces and separates that work effortlessly at a brunch, a sundowner, or pre-wedding cocktails. Over the last couple of seasons, with more and more people travelling to resort getaways and tropical locales, the beach-glam lexicon has inculcated new elements from daywear and evening spaces. For example, a bralette or a crochet gilet complements a pair of pants, or a pool-sari looks more sensual when teamed with a bikini or a bandeau top. Labels like Shivan & Narresh, Flawed By Shaleen, Flirtatious, and EL Swimwear, among others, have showcased hand-painted maillots (cross-cut with cut-out detailing) and plunge neck, one-piece swimsuits that can be styled with denim or paperbag shorts. A sultry halter top with edgy cut-outs—teamed with a draped, printed scarf-skirt—works well for brunch, and even for when the cocktails are calling. There's really no end to this mash up of swimwear pieces and casual-chic essentials, as one could create multiple looks for myriad settings.

Swimwear designer Esha Lal, in her vast repertoire of beach offerings, has incorporated high-cut bottoms as well as a pair of high-waist full coverage bottoms, so her customers can play stylist and indulge in the endless pleasures of mixing and matching. "We also offer strappy, reversible triangle bikinis for those who like both prints and solids. Some of our bikini tops have plunge necklines and provide great bust support with underwire or removable cups, making them more size-inclusive and comfortable," she says.

The future of swimwear is definitely not confined to the beach or pool anymore. "Team our bikini top with a pair of high-waist jeans, or a skirt, for a night out to the bar. Our cut-out swimsuit can be worn as a bodysuit, styled with a shirt or blazer for a dinner date. Or pair a swimsuit with a wrap skirt, and you're ready for a lunch outing (add a denim jacket, if needed). Mixing textures with patterns is a great way to embrace colour this summer. And of course, styling a bikini top or a swimsuit with a *lehenga* or sari will definitely make a statement," adds Esha.

Shivan Bhatiya, Head Designer, Shivan & Narresh, observes that swimwear as ready-to-wear has found a place with summertime casuals beyond the beach, making it one of the most stylised and versatile investments. "The best way to maximise your wardrobe is by exploring swimwear's hidden potential. From long sleeves to Y2K shimmer, it's a matter of making the most of the day—as well as the night. Style your triangular and bikini halter tops with open button-up shirts or



Ananya Panday in a Shivan & Narresh creation



FLIRTATIOUS

bomber jackets for laid-back leisures. It not only feels young and fresh, but also offers the feeling of being on vacation. A maillot is a no-brainer swap for a bodysuit. A sensual, playful trikini, too, looks great when paired with high-waist denims or fuller skirts to fuse fashion with functionality. From shimmering, metallic swimsuits with crystal-mesh accents amping up the cocktail glam, to bright, easy-breezy paneyos and sensual knits styled with micro-bandeaus and plunging necklines to serve up seaside romance—swimwear is definitely enjoying a major fashion moment this summer," he says.

Swimwear is no longer just summer season, it is an all year round phenomenon. A sexy bodysuit lends a sensual touch to Indian ensembles. Designer Aakriti Grover of Flirtatious notes that, "You can take your sexy cut-out swimsuit to pair with an oversized blazer and a gathered skirt or flared pants. Make it sexy and bigger in a minimalistic way with a clean, sleek bubble pony."

Shaleen Chhapkhanawala, Founder of label Flawed by Shaleen, has been a 'bikini girl' all her life, and has recently been finding herself reaching for the one-pieces. "The ways to wear bikinis from day to night are endless. Personally, I would wear our new one-piece with denim shorts and a pair of high-top Converse sneakers for the day, or throw jeans and a blazer over our bandeau bikini and head for dinner," she shares.

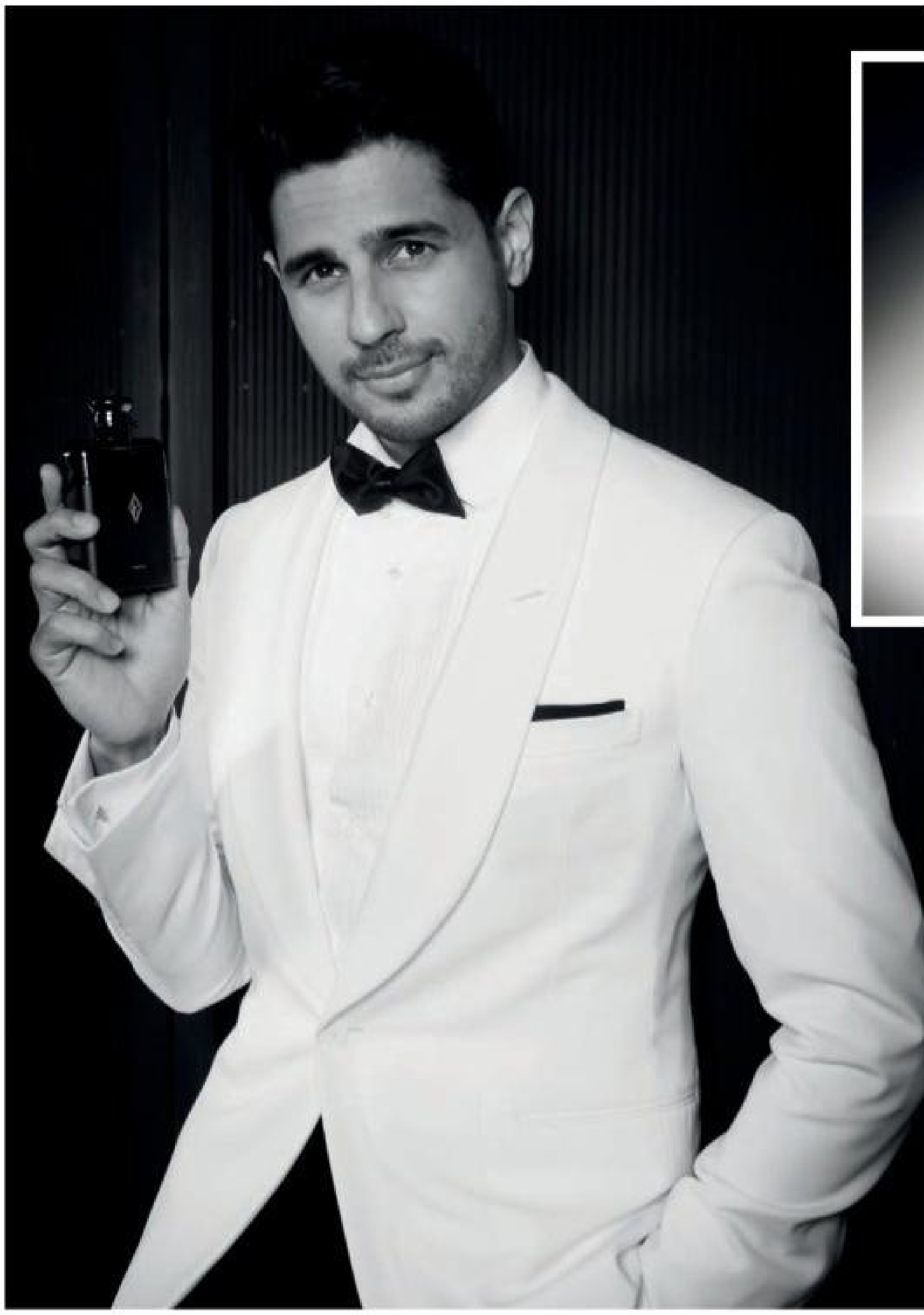
Since Independence, women have been forced to wear standard American or European sizes when it comes to intimate wear. Inherently, Indian women have fuller hips, thinner waists, and shorter torsos—a very curvilinear body type by nature. Today, they are no longer resigned to making do with generic and conservative swimwear with limited choices. They are now getting increasingly comfortable with the idea of pool outfits being, well, just outfits...something that will evoke the same confidence as from a well-fitted LBD.

Narresh Kukreja, Creative Director, Shivan & Narresh, says, "Body positivity does not mean more or less clothing, it revolves around your relationship with your body, feeling comfortable in what you choose to do with it, and what you choose to wear. This idea runs front and centre in India today, pushing beyond the disruptive notion of trial-room syndrome—something so synonymous with the narrative built around Indian swimwear. Our efforts are directed towards offering creative design solutions and a bespoke body chart that will suit different sizes. The key is to combine the modesty of cuts with the boldness of lines and colours that compliment a woman's body. Some customers feel comfortable with more coverage, while some prefer a micro-bikini; both have the right to choose, and thus, have to be respected equally. More size-inclusive options—big or small—definitely help validate women in their choices and bodies, whatever they may be," quips Narresh. ■





(Left to right) A model in an Onyx Monokini from Esha Lal swimwear; a model wearing a bikini-sari by Shivan & Narresh





(Clockwise from left) Actor Siddharth Malhotra with the flacon; Ralph Lauren Ralph's Club EDP, ₹9,300/100 ml; the actor with the brand's team



SMELLS DIVINE

The all-new fragrance by Ralph Lauren—Ralph's Club Parfum—is a rich, intense fragrance that will do all the talking.

In the realm of fragrances, a carefully crafted scent always stands the test of time. Presenting: Ralph's Club Parfum which is an invigorating perfume that's distinctive in its own manner. The scent is a true example that celebrates life and the joy of being together. And what better than celebrating togetherness with style with Ralph's Club Parfum that combines rich, woody notes with bold, spicy facets?

Housed in a luxurious flacon, the scent has been crafted to its finest quality. And no wonder, when you wear a perfume as great as the Club Parfum—your night—instantaneously will become one for the books... As a result, a single spritz of the perfume will leave a lingering trail that will follow you through the morning.

The highly concentrated scent is for men who are true mavericks of style and those who inspire others to live life each day as it comes. Not just that but the striking black, matte translucent flacon is also a collector's item with its sharp angles and hinge cap detailing featuring the brand's monogram.

Exclusively crafted by French master perfumer Dominique Ropion—experience notes of fresh lavandin paired with a spicy infusion of cardamom that is blended with warm, woody accords of patchouli... All wrapped in the intensity of vetiver, Ralph's Club Parfum is truly a fantasy blended with exotic ingredients that redefines sophistication.

Ralph's Club Parfum is available at beauty and lifestyle retailers like Shoppers Stop, Sephora, Lifestyle, SS Beauty, Myntra and Tata Cliq

FASHION NEWS

All you need to shop, see, and read this season.



Gucci Horsebit 1955 Shoulder Bags, Gucci, prices on request



REIMAGINED CLASSICS

The Italian luxury fashion house revisits its archival equestrian emblem, the Horsebit 1955, via a brand new campaign shot by Mert & Marcus featuring Halle Bailey, Hanni, and Julia Garner. Paying ode to time-honed craftsmanship, tradition, and Gucci's remarkable ability to evoke nostalgia with their emblematic silhouettes, the iconic handbag tells the tale of a time gone by through a contemporary lens.

Available at Gucci flagship stores in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata





(From left) Menouma Dress, ₹75,000; Oasis Skirt Set, ₹70,000, both Anita Dongre

EFFORTLESSLY ELEGANT

Breathable fabrics, timeless silhouettes, and intricate workmanship… couturier Anita Dongre's latest collection is a summer paradise. Housing embroidered gowns, dresses, kaftans, pantsuits, and skirt sets in lightweight fabrics including georgette, chiffon, tulle, chanderi mul, *silk organza, cotton linen, and cupro organza, the breezy ensembles feature playful prints…all while shining the spotlight on delicate beadwork,* aari *threadwork, sequins, and cord embroidery.*

Available at Anita Dongre flagship stores and at anitadongre.com



Old Rose Floral Printed Zipper Tunic Set, Varun Bahl, ₹75,000



Scarlet Red Corsage Top & Skirt, Varun Bahl, ₹1,50,000



On The Dot Heart Studs, Kate Spade, ₹5,600 approx



On The Dot Stacking Rings, Kate Spade, ₹6,400 approx



On The Dot Line Bracelet, Kate Spade, ₹8,000 approx

DAZZLING COMPANY

Adorn yourself with dainty offerings from Kate Spade; their new jewellery edit boasts minimalist bijoux—statement necklaces, earrings, rings, and more—that will fetch you all the compliments on a night on the town. These delicate pieces can be worn across occasions, and promise to add a refined touch to your basic ensemble. From evil eye jewellery to heart-shaped ornaments, Kate Spade's latest line-up encourages you to embrace your femininity.

Available at luxe.ajio.com and across Kate Spade flagship stores

On The Dot Linear Earrings, Kate Spade, ₹6,400 approx



Kylie Jenner in the ADV Dolce & Gabbana Eyewear campaign



DG Crossed Sunglasses, Dolce & Gabbana, price on request

A FEAST FOR THE EYES

London-based Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott spearhead Dolce & Gabbana's Spring/Summer '23 eyewear campaign—replete with stylish designs for a day, or night, by the pool. With entrepreneur Kylie Jenner as the face of the campaign, the D&G sunglasses and optical frames go far in enhancing the wearer's features...a must-have accessory as the temperatures rise.

Available at Sunglass Hut and at dolcegabbana.com



IN FULL BLOOM

Presenting, Varun Bahl's SS'23 Couture collection, The Secret Garden...an amalgam of soothing summer hues and flower motifs that herald the sultry season. Putting on display intricate *resham* threadwork, *zardozi* embroidery, and the technique of appliqué, the ensembles feature delightful detailing with feather, tassle, and seashell embellishments, in a vibrant colour palette comprising pastels and jewel tones. From bold bodices, flowy capes, and light jacket coveralls to sheer dupattas and bridal *lehengas*, the form-flattering silhouettes also employ the unique patchwork pattern—a Varun Bahl signature.

Available at Varun Bahl flagship stores and at varunbahl.com



Beige Asymmetric Embroidered Skirt Set, Varun Bahl, ₹2,50,000



The interiors of Sabyasachi's largest flagship store in Mumbai

OBJET D'ART

Sabyasachi has a brand new address in Mumbai...a sprawling retail space at Veer Nariman Road, spanning 25,862 sq ft, and displaying over 100 chandeliers, 275 carpets, 3,000 books, and 150 works of art created by the Sabyasachi Foundation. The emporium, which was originally built for the British Bank of The Middle East, is a living museum that houses rare lithographs, French Art Nouveau cabinets, rare Canton vases, Mughal miniatures, and age-old Tanjore paintings, among myriad archival wonders. Along with this are the two editions of the Sabyasachi x Christian Louboutin collaboration, namely Bater and Firdaus. The two-storey spectacle also features Sabyasachi bridalwear, menswear, accessories, and the international collection—exuding old-world charm. A wonderful reminder to embrace our age-old heritage.

Visit Sabyasachi's Mumbai flagship store at ICP Fort Heritage, Veer Nariman Road, Off Horniman Circle

BETTER TOMORROW

Being mindful about sustainable style, Swarovski introduces its environmentally-conscious Hyperbola capsule collection with certified carbon-neutral Swarovski Zirconia and recycled metal. Created using renewable energy, the Swarovski Zirconia reduces carbon emissions by 58 percent when compared to regular zirconia. Housing a ring, a bracelet, and three pairs of earrings, the initiative promises a more eco-friendly future, without compromising on fashion.

Available at Swarovski stores and at swarovski.com



Hyperbola Cocktail Ring, Swarovski, ₹16,500



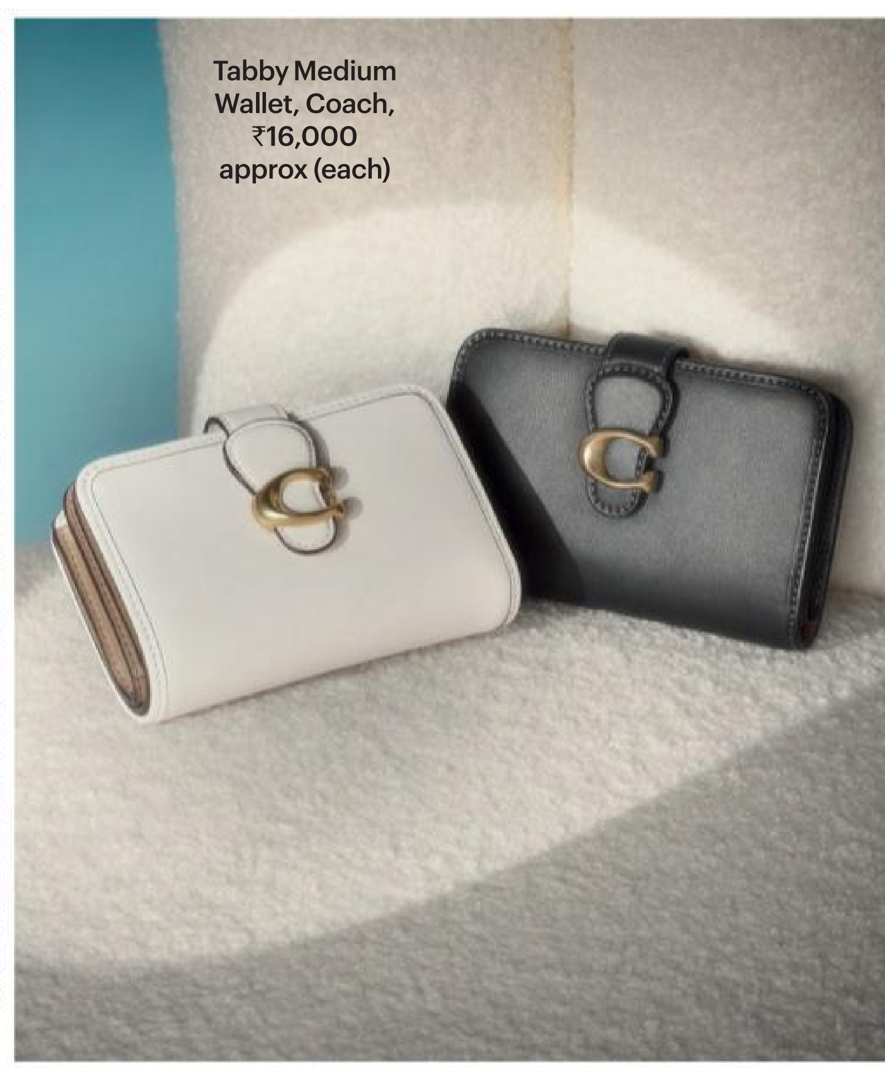
Hyperbola Drop Earrings, Swarovski, ₹35,000



Hyperbola Clip Earrings, Swarovski, ₹9,750



Hyperbola Bangle, Swarovski, ₹21,000



Tabby Medium Wallet, Coach, ₹16,000 approx (each)







NICK OF TIME

Versace's new timepiece, La Medusa, boasts a three-dimensional Medusa head floating against the dial, with roman numbers etched on the inner metal ring. Featuring the luxe union of gold and black, this ritzy watch calls on you to embrace your fierce, feminine side.
Available at Versace boutique and leading Swiss watch stores across India

La Medusa Watch, Versace, ₹1,20,900



The interiors of Araya Bagh, a luxury celebration venue

THE WONDERS LIE WITHIN

Reimagining the brand's iconic silhouette—the Tabby bag—Coach unveils the In My Tabby campaign to celebrate the spirit of individualism, self-expression, and courage. "Fashion should be about more than just style…it should be about creating safe spaces where people feel free to express themselves," shares Stuart Vevers, Creative Director, Coach. Shining the spotlight on the consumer in pursuit of unleashing the powers that lie within, the campaign aims to connect with the audiences on an emotional level…redefining the 'what's in my bag' phenomenon to include not just personal belongings, but also one's hopes and aspirations.
Available at Coach flagship stores across India





Tabby Messenger 19, Coach, ₹36,920 approx

STATE OF THE ART

The Catering Collective and Tarun Tahiliani Design Studio join forces to bring to you Araya Bagh—an expansive, ultra-modern space that is slated to become your one-stop destination to host exclusive events, red carpet soirées, corporate conventions, celebratory galas, weddings, and more. Spanning 2.5 acres, and sectioned out into separate halls and lawns that can accommodate upto 1,500 guests, the luxury venue draws on the philosophy of 'India modern'…infusing the contemporary space with Mughal architectural elements including the jaali, *antique mirrors, and stone mosaics. In conversation with* Bazaar *India Editor Nandini Bhalla, Karan Kapur, Executive Director, K Hospitality, shares, "This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration—offering an exclusive space that is fully catered. In terms of hospitality, we promise five-star service; Araya Bagh has also tied up with international chefs hailing from the Middle East, South East Asia, and the United Kingdom, to prepare delectable dishes. Over time, we've noticed that people are looking for new experiences, upgraded menus, and innovation…and Araya Bagh offers all this and more." Going on to speak about the impressive infrastructure, he adds, "We've designed a mix of spaces that can be divided based on how your guests flow, and whether your event is indoor or outdoor. From sprawling lawns and indoor spots that receive ample natural light, to more intimate and cosy spaces, Araya Bagh is built to host every kind of event."*
Visit Araya Bagh in Mehrauli, New Delhi





Louis Vuitton House Ambassador Zendaya in the Capucines Bag campaign

ICONS ONLY

French luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton unveils its newest House Ambassador—and the face of their iconic Capucines bag…the Golden Globe-winning actress Zendaya. Captured by photographer duo Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott in the French Riviera, the American star can be seen sporting the maison's signature Capucines handbag, crafted in full-grain Taurillon leather, along with its miniature version, the Capucines BB. Named after the street in Paris where Louis Vuitton opened his first flagship store in 1854, the famed accessory marries fashion and functionality, a must-have in your collection.

Parker Platform Sandal, Michael Kors, ₹20,000



GIFT OF LOVE

As the adage goes, 'A mother is more precious and valuable than all the riches in the world'…so, why not treat her to something special this Mother's Day? Michael Kors' Made For Mum line-up boasts refreshing styles that promise to make your mama's day all the more memorable. From the limited-edition, crystal pavé-encrusted Raquel watch to the signature Parker bag, look no further—these gifts will be cherished for years to come.

Available at Michael Kors flagship stores and at michaelkors.global

Martina Peep-Toe Platforms, Michael Kors, ₹25,000





Willis Stretch Knit Trainers, Michael Kors, ₹25,000



The interiors of Isharya's first flagship store in Bengaluru



An image from the Modern Maharani V: Irresistibly Glam campaign

A TOUCH OF LUXE

Jewellery brand Isharya has opened the doors of its first flagship store to the residents of Bengaluru. Besides previewing the latest edition of their Modern Maharani collection, the brand-new space houses signature Isharya offerings featuring hand-cut mirrors, resin, enamel, and semi-precious stones.

Visit the store at Lavelle Road in Bengaluru

By Diya J Verma



MAXIMUM IMPACT

Embrace the shades of the rainbow and pair maximalist accessories in sprightly hues because there's no better time than this summer to have some fun.

Photographs by SANTIAGO BELIZÓN
Styling by CLAUDIA LAUKAMP

Jackie 1961 Mini Bag (pink), and Jackie 1961 Crossbody Bags (blue and green), all prices on request, all Gucci



Leather bag and satin sandals, both prices on request, both Saint Laurent

GILDED GLAMOUR

Elegant offerings in distinctive black and gold to add some razzle-dazzle to your look.



GZ Infinity Stilettos, Giuseppe Zanotti, ₹99,999

Jaala Mini Clutch, Cult Gaia, ₹1,09,800

Maxi Kerry Bag, Immri, ₹13,500

Caro Wristlet, Mayu, ₹29,500

Chunky Twist Link Choker, Misho, ₹19,364

Imani Sandals, Michael Kors, ₹20,000

Pin Point Mules, Versace, ₹1,10,100

The Crescent Ring, Amaris by Prerna Rajpal, ₹1,70,000



Silver-tone crystal mesh earrings, Guess, ₹8,100 approx

Drop OH Molten Ring, Outhouse, ₹6,000

Myah Clutch, AMPM, ₹18,950

Cha Cha Cha Strappy Stilettos, Aquazurra, ₹95,000

Gold Leaf & Baroque Pearl Earrings, Studio Metallurgy, ₹14,500

Bow Frame Clutch, Kate Spade, ₹32,700 approx

Daisy Evening Clutch, Perona, ₹9,100

Elina Sandals, Ferragamo, ₹94,600 approx

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: PALAK VALECHA.



LV x YK
Pumpkin Bag,
Louis Vuitton,
₹10,02,000
approx



COME TO LIGHT

Here comes the sun...and delicious yellows to form an accessory palette that is fresh and fruitful.

Locò Shoulder Bag, Valentino Garavani, ₹2,33,800 approx

Dragonfly Clutch, Duet Luxury, ₹12,000

Mini Frances Bag, Burberry, price on request

Swarovski Zircons Chandelier Earrings, Diosa Paris, ₹66,950

Iconic Swan Drop Earrings, Swarovski, ₹13,500

Wallet with logo, Stella McCartney, ₹1,10,999

Aura Gold Oval Hinge Bangle, Isharya, ₹14,299

Gaia 140 Sunflower Platform Sandals, Jimmy Choo, ₹74,200 approx

Sling bag, MSGM, ₹35,999

Candy Arco Tote Bag, Bottega Veneta, price on request

Saint Alexica Stilettos, Saint G, ₹9,500

Spidey Crossbody Bag, Papa Don't Preach by Shubhika, ₹11,500

Chanel 22 Handbag, Chanel, ₹5,26,100 approx

Citrus Sandals, Kate Spade, ₹14,500

Mini Ella Bio Tote, Tory Burch, ₹18,740 approx

Small Whitney Bag, Max Mara, ₹1,64,200 approx

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: PALAK VALECHA.



Baguette bag with pressed FF motif, ₹2,61,400 approx, baguette charm with FF motif and contrasting stitching, ₹99,000 approx, and rubber platform sandals, ₹71,00 approx, all Fendi

MAKE IT POP

A hint of zesty tints in the form of handbags, jewellery, and stilettos to pack a punch to any basic ensemble.



Mumbai Adventurous Bangle, Farah Khan, ₹2,17,800



Mini Marfa Rectangular Sunglasses, The Attico, ₹28,999



Stone Drops Clutch 9, Aranyani, ₹90,000

Carved Bloom Ear Huggies in Leafy Green Sapphires, Prakshi Fine Jewellery, ₹1,18,600 approx



Jelly Tabby Bag, Coach, ₹28,750 approx



Small saddle bag, Marc Jacobs, ₹50,999



Logo print slip-on espadrilles, Kenzo, ₹17,000



Gema Drop Earrings, Swarovski, ₹30,000



Tilda Saddle Bag, Behno, ₹59,560 approx



Petra Curved Shoulder Bag, Charles & Keith, ₹7,000



Mosaic Citrus Earrings, Olivia Dar, ₹7,900



Soho Large Quilted Shoulder Bag, Michael Kors, ₹45,000



1Dr Pouch Crossbody Bag, Diesel, ₹34,999

So Kate Pumps in Fluo Orange, Christian Louboutin, ₹69,430 approx

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: PALAK VALECHA.

Steal THE *Show*

Exceptional details complemented with crisp texture and standout shapes—we present the best accessories of the season.

Photographs by STEFANIE MOSHAMMER
Styling by MIGUEL ENAMORADO



Glove tote, Balenciaga



Boot, Rick Owens



Handbag, Fendi



Bag and boots, both
Alexander McQueen



Hobo Bag, Chloé



Shoulder bag,
Bottega Veneta

LV Monogram Clutch,
Louis Vuitton





Two-piece gladiator
sandals, Gucci



Cabaret Pumps, Alaïa

Evening Bag, Chanel



Set Design: Jade Boyeldieu D’auvigny

GET

Harper's BAZAAR INDIA



+



COSMOPOLITAN

ON STAND OFFERS:

COSMOPOLITAN ⟶ INR 150

HARPER'S BAZAAR ⟶ INR 200

EXCLUSIVE COMBO INR ~~350~~ 250



THE LIVING WORLD

The rich treasures of Mother Earth come together to offer the best of joaillerie craftsmanship and stylist and filmmaker Rhea Kapoor on her relationship with jewellery and her latest collaboration.

Necklace in White Gold with Aquamarine, Enamel, and Diamonds, from the Hortus Deliciorum Collection, Gucci High Jewellery

Photographs by **Charles Negre**

Styling by **Maria Gulia Riva**

SET DESIGN: ALINE JOANA RÜEDE

FORCE OF NATURE

The best of haute joaillerie redefines the beauty of the Earth in the form of brooches, earrings, necklaces, and little treasures. Photographs by CHARLES NEGRE Styling by MARIA GIULIA RIVA



Bird on a Rock Clip in Platinum and 18k Yellow Gold with an Oval Aquamarine and Round Brilliant Diamonds,
Tiffany & Co. Schlumberger



Précieux Envol Earrings in white gold and diamonds, from the Coromandel Collection, Chanel High Jewelry



White gold ring with emerald-cut tourmaline and diamonds, Chopard High Jewellery



Liberty Necklace with 4.84 Carat Emerald and Flower Cut Diamond Inspired by the Iconic 2.02 Carat Monogram Motif,
Louis Vuitton



Brooch in white gold, rose gold, mauve and pink sapphires, black spinels and diamonds, from the L'Arche De Noé collection, Van Cleef & Arpels



Lonid High Jewelery Platinum Bracelet with a Cushion-cut Aquamarine, Cabochon-cut Tourmalines, Aquamarines, and Brilliant-cut Diamonds, from Beautés du Monde Collection, Cartier



Ring in White and Yellow Gold with Diamonds, Emeralds, Blue and Pink Sapphires, Rubies, Tsavorite Garnets, Paraiba Tourmalines, and Green Pearl, Tie & Dior Collection, Dior Joaillerie

In Her BIJOUX BOX

In an exclusive conversation with Bazaar India Editor NANDINI BHALLA, filmmaker and stylist RHEA KAPOOR talks about her love affair with jewellery, the urge she feels to learn and create constantly, and her latest collaboration with label Pipabella by Nykaa Fashion.

Nandini Bhalla: Tell us more about your new collaboration with Pipabella...
Rhea Kapoor: "So, the founder of Pipabella, Shuchi [Pandya] and I have been in touch since we launched our last collection together. Both of us were really happy with the results, and how the pieces were received by everyone. Honestly, we were a little overwhelmed by the reaction, but then Covid hit, and we ran into issues with supply chains and other logistics. And while the collection launched with a bang, the whole world started slowing down... I felt our collection was a baby that never had a chance to go to college [*laughs*].

Regardless, the collection did so well, and the team and I had an amazing time launching it. One of the most memorable and validating aspects was that even months later, I would run into people wearing pieces from the collection. And then one day, Shuchi just said to me, 'Let's do it again'. And I took the opportunity, because I believe it's imperative to keep challenging myself and doing new things. I can't really sit still; I need to learn something new all the time.

For this collection, I really wanted to explore the idea of easy-glamour, which a lot of people have turned to, post the pandemic. As a stylist and producer, I've always enjoyed witnessing things coming together. This collection brings together a bunch of many little details... The pieces can be worn together for a maximalist result, or separately, if you're a minimalist. Like, these days, I find myself in the era of sweatpants...and I style my look with a pair of earrings, a slick bun, and a hint of cream blush. Also, the quality of this collection is 10 times better than the previous one...you can always count on these pieces, because they will last you a lifetime."

NB: Tell me about the kind of jewellery you enjoy wearing yourself...
RK: "It depends on my mood. But I tend to gravitate towards jewellery that has some sort of sentiment attached to it. For instance, I have a jade heart necklace bought from a vintage store, which I later repurposed and set with diamonds...it's a lovely piece and gets many compliments.

But it is really about the story behind a piece of jewellery. For instance, Karan [Boolani] gifted me a necklace when we were dating. It was a one-carat solitaire on a string, and I wore it every day. Later, Sonam gifted me a Tiffany and Co. key necklace and asked me to wear it every day, as well! My husband and sister were competing with each other for my neck [*laughs*]. And that's the thing—most pieces I love have an emotion associated with them, and I get attached to those pieces and wear them over and over again. When I am working in Mumbai, I prefer a minimal style, but if I am on a vacation in the Maldives, I am all about statement earrings. I love a good accessory."



Silver Toned Textured Wide Cuff Bracelet



Rhea Kapoor

NB: Tell me about your favourite pieces from the Pipabella collection...

RK: "I love the earrings from the Goddess collection. The pair has been inspired by hips, hearts, and legs—all of my favourite things [*laughs*]. They are statement pieces and I've also worn them in the campaign, and Sonam, too, wore the pair with a green Valentino dress. Then, there is a pair of 'huggies', which are minimal, and a spiral bangle that you can wear on any part of your arm. They are so cool and have so much personality...they go well with everything."

NB: Does the jewellery from your collection celebrate women and the female form?

RK: "I believe more than celebrating form, it's about celebrating a woman's sexuality. You know, when I was in my 20s, I was much smaller, thinner, and I didn't feel half as sexy as I do now. In my 30s, I just became more confident, more worldly, and more aware about myself and those around me. And instead of being shy about myself and my body, I became curious about it—and I began embracing myself. I believe that sexuality is beautiful and bold, and everybody can embrace that. This, to me, is poetic, and I feel that the nature of sexuality is so fluid—be it a woman's or a man's form..."

"I CARE DEEPLY ABOUT QUALITY, BECAUSE I'D RATHER BUY ONE THING AND REPEAT IT EVERY DAY THAN BUY THINGS REPEATEDLY. QUALITY FASHION WILL ALWAYS LOOK RICH BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN TAILORED WELL."

NB: What is your earliest memory of fashion?

RK: "I remember crying because my mother was trying to get me into a flowy dress for a birthday party and I didn't want to wear it because it was prickly, and I knew it wasn't for me. From the age of one or two, I had an opinion on fashion; I just knew what worked for me and what didn't. My mother, too, is really knowledgeable about these things. By the time we were 12-years-old, Sonam and I understood the difference between *zardozi*, real *zari*, *badla*, *mukaish*, *chikankari*, etc.

My mother would buy old borders from Rajasthan, and she has a lot of respect and appreciation for our local artisans, who are no less than magicians. She would get on a call with Anuradha [Vakil] and they'd go through sacks filled with shawls and dupattas, sent over by local vendors. I remember dressing up my Barbie dolls to perfection... You know how some children left their Barbies naked? Mine were always ready for the red carpet! I never cared about Ken, but I really cared about how Barbie looked and turned out."

NB: How has your personal style evolved over the years?

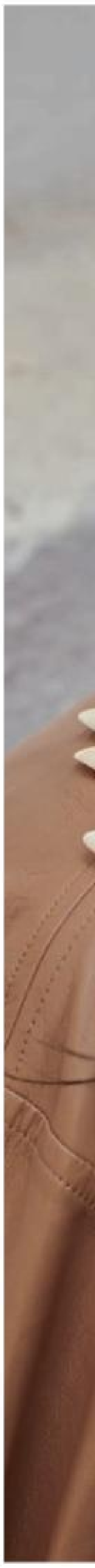
RK: "When I was in my 20s, I was more adventurous and, perhaps, had more fun experimenting with my style. But as you grow older and your body changes, you don't really understand what to do with it. And currently, my personal style is all about comfort. I just prefer the simple things in life now...I have stopped wearing prints altogether, and you will often spot me in a plain, black shirt. But I care deeply about quality, because I'd rather buy one thing and repeat it every day than buy things repeatedly. Quality fashion will always look rich because it has been tailored well. A lot of my clothes are from this brand called Saphed; I love their sets. I also really like SKIMS, especially their cotton-fleece sweatshirts with matching pants. I also own a bunch of Victoria Beckham separates. So anything simple is my vibe currently. I am just looking to simplify my style, and have fun with everyone else's style [*laughs*]."

NB: What does the power of collaboration, and sisterhood, mean to you?

RK: "It means everything to me. I have a career because of sisterhood... My sister and I collaborated with each other, which is why I am a producer today. If it wasn't for Sonam [Kapoor] wanting to collaborate with me, I wouldn't be here. Likewise, if Kareena hadn't collaborated with me, my career wouldn't have moved further. I am so thankful that Tanvi [Chowdhari], who is the Founder of Papacream, and we, collaborated to create ice-creams, which remains one of my most successful collaborations.

(Clockwise from top left) Silver Toned Textured Cut Disc Shaped Earrings; Gold Toned Spiral Drop Dangler Earrings; Gold Toned Textured Ring; Gold Toned Textured Dangler Earrings







For me, sisterhood is my survival. If it wasn't for sisterhood, I would have no work or peace of mind."

NB: How would you style the pieces from the Pipabella collection?

RK: "The jewellery campaign features Ayesha [Kanga] from *Class* [2023] and Pooja [Dhingra], too. It also has a talented 20-year-old stylist named Bidipto Das. It was so interesting to see how Bidipto put things together and styled the pieces. I am really inspired by this generation—with the way they perceive things without being bound by the rigid notions that our generation holds. The collection is extremely versatile; you can't go wrong with styling them, because they have been designed in that manner. And there are no rules... People often say 'don't mix gold with silver', but when done right, the result is amazing. Like Rick Owens' wife Michèle Lamy wears all the pieces in varying proportions of silver, and it just works. I want people to treat this collection as a friend—it is not supposed to be intimidating, and there's no formula to it. Just wear it the way you feel like wearing it."

NB: Lastly, what are you looking forward to next?

RK: "My movies! Firstly, *The Crew*, and another one which I will announce shortly. This movie has my heart and soul and is so special to me that I have kept it close to my heart. It is everything I would want as a filmmaker. Coming back to *The Crew*, which is my chick flick bonanza featuring the dream cast of Tabu, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Kriti Sanon, Diljit Dosanjh, and others. There's also a show in the works—which has been three years in the making... And lastly, I am also working with Sonam [Kapoor] on something truly exciting. It is everything that girls want from Sonam and me, and I can't wait to go back to my *Aisha* [2010] days again." ■

I recently collaborated with Astha [Khetan], who runs The House of Things. We have been working on the collection for over a year, and I think it is one of my most challenging projects. For the first time, I am creating furniture and homeware, among other things. And I have learned so much! Even Ekta Kapoor, for that matter...The movies that I make...I don't think they would have worked if I was working with just men. And I am still hungry, and I want to get better—because my stories are about and for girls, coming from the heart of a girl. When it comes to narrating stories of men, I sometimes go blank. We, as women, have to do it for each other. I do it for every girl around me, because I know that I'm going to be the only one who understands...


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BAZAAR AT WORK

THE POWER WITHIN

Four successful female leaders on prioritising themselves, recovering from burnout, and leading a balanced life.



Evermore Shawl, Louis Vuitton, price on request



Youth Junkie Activated Mask, Foreo, ₹1,890



Embrace Ambition Bracelet, Tory Burch, ₹7,999

Shirley Sun Sunglasses, Rosvin Bugs, ₹5,490



Wild Flower Hearts Earrings, Simran Chhabra, ₹4,500



Retro Eyeshadow Palette, Natasha Denona, ₹7,100

Fragrance is a potent wizard



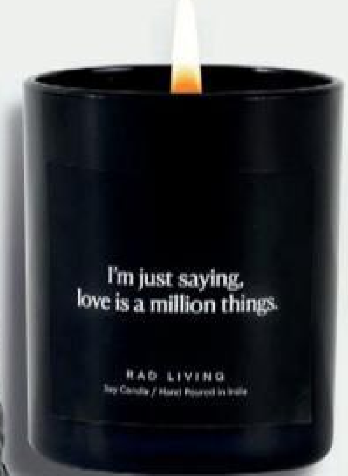
Sky Di Gioia EDP, Giorgio Armani, ₹6,099/50ml



Piero Piero Bucket Bag, Bottega Veneta, price on request



Mitzah Travel Spray, Dior, price on request



Toxic Oudh Affair Scented Candle, Rad Living, ₹899



HOW CAN *Women* PREVENT *Burnout in the* WORKPLACE?

Bazaar India speaks to four inspiring female leaders—from different walks of life—to understand the potential source and solutions for women facing burnout in high-pressure work environments.

By PRIYANKA KATHURIA

Burnout, defined as chronic physical and emotional exhaustion, is a significant health concern taking over workplaces, across the globe. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), burnout is classified as an 'occupational phenomenon', resulting from long-standing workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. While it can affect anyone, research shows that women—especially those in high-pressure work situations—are particularly vulnerable, owing to myriad challenges they face in their personal and professional lives.

Here's a sobering statistic: after the pandemic, women are facing what experts are calling an 'exhaustion gap', with a whopping 68 percent feeling burned out, less driven, and less inspired (compared to 50 percent men). For many women, the problem is more than just about a pressure-packed working environment. Because once their work day is over, many have to return home to unpaid responsibilities like parenting, household chores, domestic work, and caregiving (studies say women spend four times the hours on domestic duties, than men).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHANDRAHAS PRABHU



As one might expect, this situation is not helping women close the gender gap in organisations—according to research by 360Learning, burnout is the number-one reason why women (25 percent of respondents, to be exact) have already quit their job...or are planning to. Whether this applies to women in leadership positions or not, the distressing consequence is that we stand to be left with fewer females in the workforce, and a significant lacuna in decision-making profiles.

And so, *Bazaar* India spoke with four female leaders to better understand the different aspects of burnout, and to explore ways in which women can alleviate stress and exhaustion in a demanding work ecosystem.

Anahita Dhondy Bhandari

Chef & Author



"I was with Soda Bottle Opener Wala until 2021, and in 2013, we launched the brand's first outlet. Having worked with a company for nine years and handling operations every single day not only made me feel burnt out, but also caused a creativity block. I realised this somewhere in 2020, amidst the pandemic. This was my cue to focus on other things that made me happy—I began cooking at home and sharing recipes on social media. I also finished writing my book, which had been on the back-burner for far too long. I also realised that I had not taken a holiday in months...

When I finally left Soda Bottle Opener Wala, I was unsure about what to do next, because I was so accustomed to the adrenaline rush. I felt lost, and it took me an entire year to get back to the rhythm of work. I frequently deal with high-pressure situations, especially in the kitchen, where people can be hot-headed and loud. And what really helps me in such moments is to respond in a calm manner. As a chef, as well as a team leader, it is imperative



to accept criticism and feedback in a positive manner. That's my motto when it comes to dealing with comments on social media, too. I also prefer planning in advance, by making a weekly calendar every Sunday night. This helps me stay on top of things.

I see travel as another way to recharge. Coupled with spending time with my mother. My parents and brother have been extremely supportive of me since the beginning, and they always saw the potential in me. They recognised my passion for cooking, and when I broke the news to them about wanting to become a chef, they didn't question my decision. In fact, when we were setting up Soda Bottle Opener Wala, there were several instances where they came to pick me up really late at night. The same can be said for my then-boyfriend and now husband...he always knew that my career came first, as it was important for the both of us to establish ourselves before we got married. He's my biggest cheerleader, and is always standing by my side. And I honestly wouldn't be here, or anywhere, if I didn't have that kind of a support system.

Having said that, I do agree that women are more susceptible to burnout. No matter how supportive your partner or your parents are, many tend to believe in the stereotype that women can do it all—and that it is their duty to do so.

Yes, I want to do it all, and I think women, in general, just tend to over-extend themselves, but we don't realise when that responsibility piles up...and the people around us get used to us doing it all. That's when burnout strikes, and women realise they need help. It's necessary to have discussions on finances, or on how to distribute responsibilities in your relationship to reduce the disparity and close the gap.

At work, there are going to be times when things will get extremely strenuous. And as I said earlier, in such moments, you need the support of whoever is around. So it's imperative to ask for help.

Organisations can also support in different ways, such as engaging and educating their employees. As a leader, there are times one needs to come up with a plan, and give people a break from their routines for a breath of fresh air. And obviously, the most important thing, at an individual level, is to have a healthy work-life balance."



Supriya Paul,
CEO & Co-founder, Josh Talks

"There have been [and still are] phases where the work pressure, the stress of

raising capital, and long hours, take a toll on my well-being. I experienced a major burnout phase, physically and mentally, during the pandemic—when there was a lot of uncertainty around us. We were trying to run an organisation and ensure its stability. Just like everyone during that period, I was anxious and not sleeping well. Some of the burnout symptoms that I experienced included feeling fatigued, being crippled by negative thoughts, and frequent cycles of restless sleep.

Journalling my thoughts, open communication with the people around me, and building a routine via exercise helped me cope with burnout.

As an entrepreneur, I have realised that maintaining a healthy work-life balance is not easy. There will always be sporadic phases that keep occurring...so my goal is to maintain a routine that can help me navigate these phases. Putting a structured routine in place also helps create balance—which later helps combat emotional and physical stress. In order to ensure that I have enough time for myself, I follow a system that allows me to spend a lot more time with myself. I have realised that self-care is not a luxury, but an essential part of our well-being and overall success. Participating in meaningful activities and surrounding myself with positive people helps me regain my balance.

While burnout can affect anyone—regardless of gender—there are, indeed, factors that make women more susceptible to experiencing the same. One significant factor is the increased responsibility that women often take up at home, in addition to their professional work. Also, as women, our innate response is to take up every task that comes our way, resulting in not enough time for ourselves.

I believe that one of the most critical coping strategies for women experiencing burnout is to define and communicate boundaries. Establishing a more equitable division of labour at home is also important. Family members supporting each other in sharing responsibilities can help alleviate some of the stressors that contribute to burnout.

Other non-negotiables should include taking time out to care for your body, and making physical activity a part of your day-to-day routine. And finally, try not be too self-critical or feel guilty when you do make time for yourself. I also believe that a prerequisite to addressing burnout at a societal level and creating a healthier work environment is to promote open communication and build an inclusive culture at the workplace...where everyone feels comfortable discussing their concerns and seeking emotional help when needed."

"I HAVE REALISED THAT SELF-CARE IS NOT A LUXURY, BUT AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR WELL-BEING AND OVERALL SUCCESS."
- Supriya Paul

Manisha Bhasin,
Corporate Executive Chef, ITC Hotels

"Wearing a chef's hat along with being a homemaker is not easy. However, as a mother, it is hugely gratifying when you see your children take pride in your achievements. I prioritise my work and my family as per what requires more attention at a given point of time, and try to strike the necessary balance on both fronts.

Personally, I have an optimistic approach towards burnout, and believe that when you love what you do, you will enjoy the journey. There will be days when you feel differently, but remembering one's purpose is essential in that moment. For me, food always brings a spring in my step and challenges me to move forward. One has to create opportunities within their scope—and see what can be done to put their best foot forward.



Reinventing oneself in any profession is imperative. As a chef, exploring other cuisines can be a great motivation, as there is so much to learn in the culinary world. Each day is a new day that gives us the opportunity to create and curate for our guests.

There are days that feel stressful, and whenever I am feeling like that, I try to visualise and implement at least one idea that would not only add value to my repertoire, but also broaden my vision. I also turn to hobbies such as painting and pottery for a dose of creative release.

My advice to all the people facing burnout is to indulge in a hobby that is unrelated to your job, because that will give you the fuel to move ahead. Having friends outside your workplace is another way to gain perspective and de-stress.

As far as the question regarding women experiencing more burnout goes, I believe women today are more assertive and aware than before. I also think burnout is not gender-specific—and if someone has run out of steam, solid support at the workplace, home, and from your partner, is crucial. With diversity and equity gaining momentum, for those who do feel the pressure irrespective of gender, many policies are being rolled out by organisations—or they should be—to make the workplace more equitable."

Divya Gokulnath,
Co-founder, BYJU'S

"Burnout is an unfortunate reality of our times, and is hard to escape. One of the early signs of burnout is procrastination and a feeling of cynicism. It's easy to dismiss these signs as 'just one of those days', but I cannot stress enough the importance of identifying and overcoming them early. Unfortunately, women are more susceptible to burnout. The so-called 'pink recession' is not just a number, but a cautionary tale.

We are not even halfway through 2023, and we have already seen some amazing female leaders step down—from Marne Levine of Meta and Susan Wojcicki of Youtube, to the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who very candidly said that she didn't have 'enough in the tank' to lead. It is distressing to see talented women resigning from their high-power jobs due to burnout, as they navigate more obstacles than men to achieve a similar level of success. They do so while also stepping over invisible threads of societal roles, expectations, stereotypes, and belittling micro-aggressions to constantly prove themselves.

The 'broken rung' towards management positions also leaves women in jobs where their skills are underutilised, which further triggers burnout. The fact that over and above full-time jobs, many women are also designated caregivers at home only exacerbates this inequality. What's worse is that women are also conditioned to have burnout guilt! It's a vicious cycle that must be broken.



Self-care, self-love, and self-confidence are antidotes to burnout. I have been able to insulate myself by having a strong support system around me, in my personal and professional life. Reading and meditation are also some things that help me break out of the rut and feed my soul.

It is essential that we learn how to compartmentalise, create boundaries, and prioritise things that bring us joy. When you have two young children, even 24 hours seem short... Personally, I take cues from my mother, who has mastered the art of work-life balance... Growing up, I used to wait for her to come home from her job—a producer at Doordarshan—and hear all about her day. She would be present and approachable at work as well as at home, and I try to emulate her as much as I can.

As far as organisations are concerned, the case for a more empathetic work culture has never been stronger. But as female leaders, we must take on the task to fix the broken rung, because every time we stand up for ourselves, we stand up for the million women who do not have the means to do it. Organisations should set up counselling networks dedicated to help burnt-out employees, while tailoring policies for working parents. These changes may appear challenging, but an organisation's culture has a far-reaching impact on not just the employees, but business performance, too.

On a social level, change must begin in the classroom—for it to reflect in boardrooms. Educating our girls at the same level as boys sets off a domino effect. Also, it's time we normalise taking breaks, pausing, and prioritising our well-being. For far too long, women have carried the emotional burdens at the workplace and at home, too. It's time we shed the load and unleash our potential." ■




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Alive by Mahima Kapoor, mixed media on paper, 2023

FREEDOM TO FLOURISH

Artworks that demonstrate the symbiosis between humankind and Mother Nature, Indian Ocean's new album after a decade-long hiatus, and an exclusive tell-all with singer John Legend.





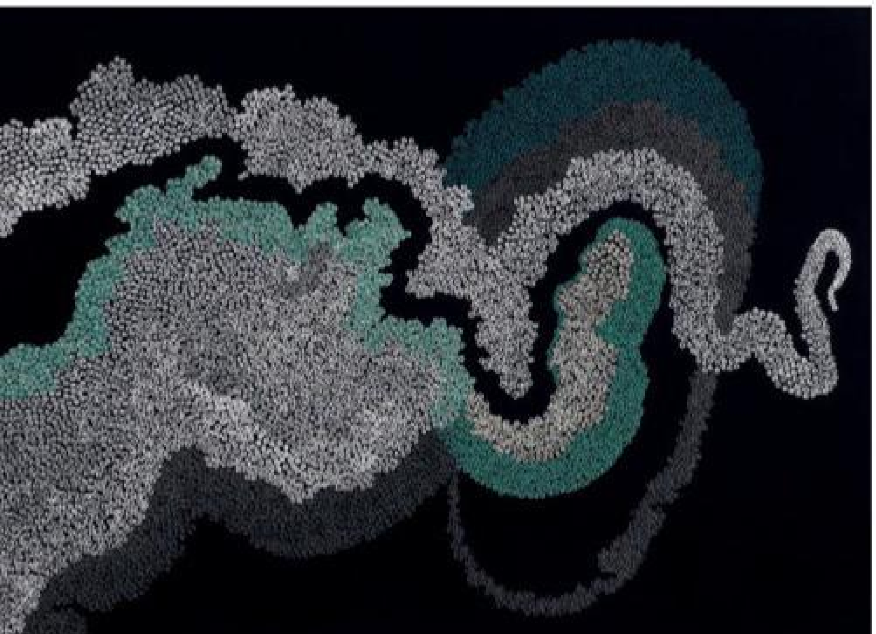


ART

(Clockwise from top left) *Cor Maris 3* by Meera George, mix media on acrylic, 2023; *Micro-macro* by Mahima Kapoor, watercolour, ink, and collage on paper, 2022; *Resonance* by Sukanya Garg, pen, coloured pencil, and graphite on acid-free paper, 2018

BEACON OF HOPE

Artworks that herald spring... emblematic of renewal, revival, and rejuvenation.



An unrestrained use of colour, vivid motifs, and experimentation with materiality—Art Alive Gallery presents *And Then Came Spring...,* showcasing the works of five emerging artists, including Meera George, Meghna Patpatia, Mahima Kapoor, Sukanya Garg, and Vandana Kothari.

Drawing inspiration from the magnificence of nature, each of these artists explore myriad aspects of their surroundings through a unique lens of artistic expression, employing a diverse range of mediums and techniques.

As Meera George tackles man-made environmental deterioration via circular compositions reminiscent of flora and fauna from the aquatic ecosystem, Mahima Kapoor's profound paintings and installations call for the appreciation of nature's inherent beauty. Sukanya Garg's layered mixed media creations, on the other hand, inspect the entanglements between mankind and the Universe, while Vandana Kothari's dotted compositions divulge her thoughts, emotions, and experiences.

Meanwhile, Meghna Singh Patpatia investigates the harmony between natural and man-made components through her artistic practice—shining the spotlight on pressing ecological concerns with the use of pen and ink on textured rice paper.

And Then Came Spring... is on view at the Art Alive Gallery in New Delhi till May 15

By Diya J Verma

ON MY PLAYLIST

Class *actor Chintan Rachchh reveals the tunes he is grooving to, why music holds a special place in his heart, and how it influences his thoughts.*



1- MAAN MERI JAAN (AFTERLIFE)
King, Nick Jonas



2- OHHO
Sammad, Quest, and 3bhk



3 - GIRTA SAMBHALTA
Nayantara Bhatkal, Aditya N., and Class



Chintan Rachchh



4- HERE WITH ME
d4vd



5- DIE HARD
Amanda Reifer, Blxst, and Kendrick Lamar



6 - PASSIONFRUIT
Yaeji

Actor Chintan Rachchh shot to fame after the Indian adaptation of *Elite* [2018], called *Class* [2023], released on Netflix this year. Having played a queer character named Faruq on the show, Chintan has met with repeated, positive reviews. For the young actor, the show's success has come with a lot of meetings, travel, and appearances...from which he finds solace through music. "My mind is so chaotic these days, that even when I sit in silence, I feel anxious. That is why I am listening to music with my headphones on throughout the day, just like Faruq from the show [*laughs*]." Chintan tells us that music helps him focus better and get into the groove of ticking off tasks from his to-do list. "As a public figure, I am constantly smiling, and that can be tricky. Hence, the type of music I listen to gives me an adrenaline rush and helps me focus more quickly. It's like a wave that's guiding my brain from point A to point B." On asking what are his favourite genres at the moment, Chintan tells *Bazaar* India, "I love R&B/Soul, Synth Pop, and Indie Hindi. In fact, I also enjoy Lofi, because it's pleasing to my ears." As a child, Chintan was heavily influenced by Hindi music and artists such as KK, Salim–Sulaiman, A.R. Rahman, and Atif Aslam. "Their music instantly makes me feel nostalgic. And I have always loved the 2005-2012 era in Hindi cinema." Currently, Chintan's playlist includes popular melodic numbers such as *Passionfruit* by Yaeji, *Die Hard* by Kendrick Lamar, *Here with Me* by d4vd, and *Die for You* by Joji. Chintan explores new tracks through Reels on Instagram, and "sometimes my friends and I go on long drives and take turns to play songs...that's another way I get introduced to new music."

By Shambhavi Dutta

FASHION

SAY IT WITH SPARKLE

As Ashish Gupta's first retrospective opens, the designer talks about sticking to his guns, subverting stereotypes, and expressing himself through sequins.





Kaleidoscopic trousers, shimmering sequin dresses, and bold slogan T-shirts are Ashish Gupta's love language, through which he communicates his vision for liberation. The designer, who founded his eponymous label over two decades ago, creates glamorous clothes that reflect both what he describes as 'the sexiness and freedom of night-life' and his experiences as an immigrant; some of his most striking pieces feature phrases such as 'Love sees no colour'.

Growing up in 1980s and 1990s Delhi, Gupta found himself drawn to his mother's fashion magazines; once he finished school, he moved to London to study fashion design at Central Saint Martins. "This was the time when being gay was illegal in India, so I felt like I needed to go to a big, glitzy liberal city," he explains. After he established his brand in 2001, a friend wore one of his designs to the Mayfair boutique Browns Focus, whose buyer Yeda Yun put in an order. It wasn't long before stars from Rihanna to Taylor Swift were seen wearing his playful pieces.

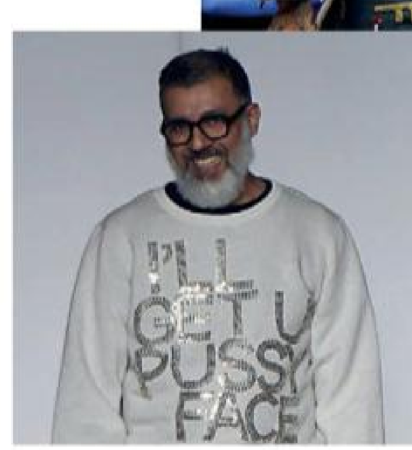
Ashish is a small, independent label, where the garments are still sewn by hand. Yet it has made its presence known in the industry, thrice winning the prestigious British Fashion Council NewGen award. Gupta also committed to casting diverse models in his shows long before other brands followed suit. "Equality and inclusivity have always been part of the world I was imagining, which I wanted to live in," he says. "For me, making collections is a very personal process. It's not necessarily about what's cool right now—it's more about asking myself, 'What do I want to express?'" This month will see Gupta's first retrospective open at the William Morris Gallery, with more than 60 archive pieces on display, including the glittering floral jumpsuit worn by Hunter Schafer. "It follows different stages of my journey, which has, at times, been very difficult—avoiding being stereotyped as an Indian designer, and trying to be taken seriously in my medium," he reflects. "But I always said to myself, just do the work and stick to what you feel is true to you. That's what is important in the end."

Ashish: Fall in Love and Be More Tender is at the William Morris Gallery, London (www.wmgallery.org.uk) from April 1 to September 10

By Brooke Theis







(Clockwise from top right) A hand embroidered sequin daisy jumpsuit from the SS'23 collection; singer Rihanna in Ashish Gupta; Taylor Swift in the designer's creation; designer Ashish Gupta; a magenta, sequin sari-inspired gown from the SS23 collection

ART

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Artworks that aren't bound by the limits of human perception.







Contemporary art gallery Latitude 28 presents *Woven into Being*, a group exhibition that brings together five artists—Al-Qawi Nanavati, Revati Sharma Singh, Reyaz Badaruddin, Shalini Dam, and Veena Advani—whose profound pieces compel the viewer to employ a multi-sensorial approach and expand their boundaries of perception. To leverage the tactility of their creations, the artists turn to textural elements in asymmetrical patterns and revisit the complex relationship between form, medium, and sensation. While Revati Sharma's works address notions of hunger and abundance, Al-Qawi Nanavati metamorphoses her mother's belongings into woven textile creations. Meanwhile, Reyaz Badaruddin plays with dimensionality, Shalini Dam creates optical illusions, and Veena Advani uses textiles and beads to create abstract landscapes. *Woven into Being is on view at Latitude 28 in New Delhi till May 22*

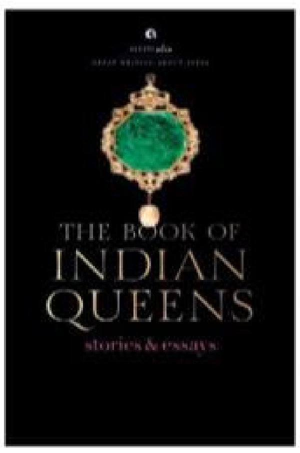
(Clockwise from top left) *Alternate Realities* by Revati Sharma Singh, gouache and acrylic on canvas, 2023; *Santa FE 3* by Veena Advani, mixed media and embroidery on canvas, triptych, 2022; *Changing Landscape 4* by Reyaz Badaruddin, Clay, 2022

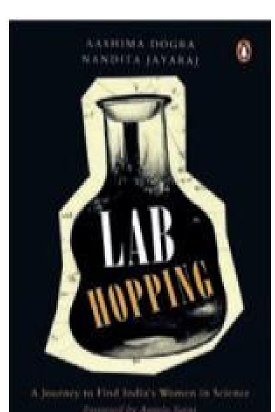
BOOKS

FIERCELY FEMININE

Powerful reads that celebrate women in all their glory.

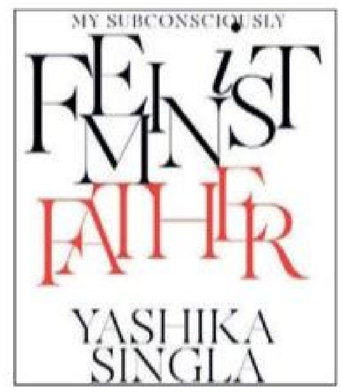
This anthology of stories and essays shines the spotlight on the prominent women who once ruled India—Rani Lakshmibai, Begum Hazrat Mahal, and Princess Sanatombi, to name a few. [Aleph Book Company]

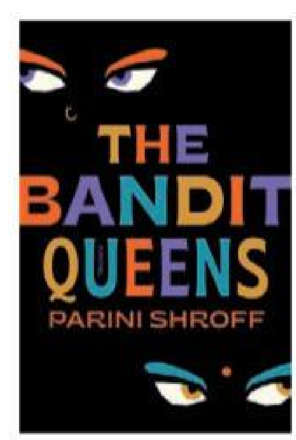




Authors Nandita Jayaraj and Aashima Dogra open a dialogue with India's renowned scientists on the gender gap in the world of research. [Penguin Random House India]

In this part memoir, part manifesto, Yashika tells the tale of her father—an accidental feminist who simply raised his children on the principle of fairness. [Aleph Book Company]





A novel that canvasses the life of without-husband Geeta… and her envious, new-found freedom that compels other women to turn to her for 'husband disposal' advice. [HarperCollins India]

By Diya J Verma



STRIKE A CHORD

The youngest EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony) award-winning singer and writer JOHN LEGEND speaks to Bazaar India at the Walkers & Co. tour by Johnnie Walker about collaborating with Indian-American artist Raja Kumari, and the legacy he wants to leave behind. Interview by NANDINI BHALLA

MUSIC

Nandini Bhalla: John, you have achieved so much in your life... Do you ever feel the pressure to live upto your name—Legend?

John Legend: "My friends nicknamed me Legend in 2002... I never considered Legend as my stage name, but once I took it up, I knew there was a certain responsibility that came with the name. I enjoy the pressure; I want to live upto my name, and I strive to prove myself throughout my career."

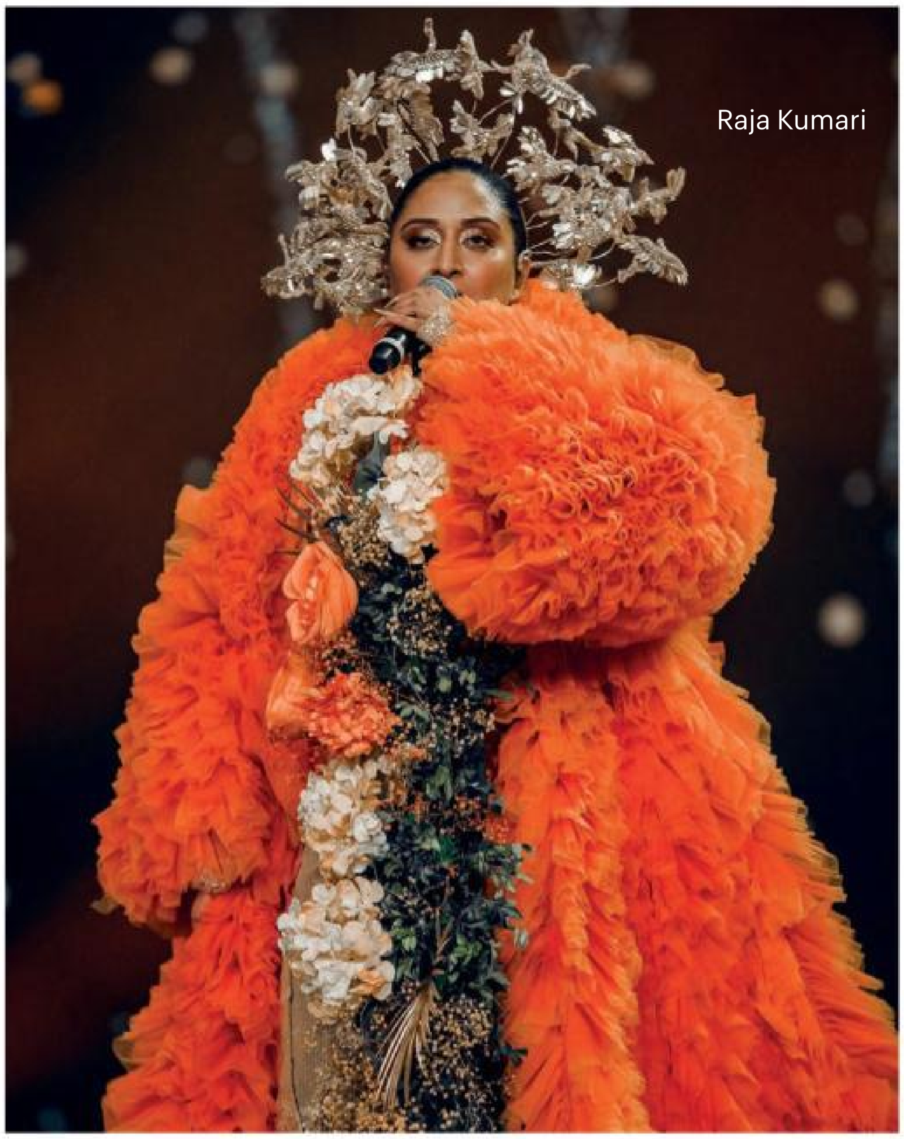
NB: You were voted The Sexiest Man Alive... We want to know what you find desirable in a woman...

JL: "My wife is very sexy... Chrissy is not just physically beautiful, but she makes me laugh, too. She is a great mother and cook, and I think she is incredibly smart and clever. I find all of these qualities attractive."

NB: You just had your third baby, Esti Maxine Stephens. Is it tough balancing work and family?

JL: "It's not easy, and on most days, it feels like a challenge. Bringing up children requires constant back and forth, and some tough conversations need to be had with oneself and your partner. I try my best to strike a balance because I want to be there for my family and watch my kids grow. My career involves a lot of travelling, but sometimes, I have to turn down requests so I can prioritise my personal life. When I am home, I make it a point to be consciously present and in the moment... I play with Miles [Theodore Stephens] in the backyard, or just paint and draw with Luna [Simone Stephens]. I also like to drop my kids to school and experience their childhood."

IMAGES COURTESY: THE BRAND.



Raja Kumari

NB: How does it feel to create an anthem [*Keep Walking*] for the Indian audience at the Walkers & Co. tour by Johnnie Walker?

JL: "I loved composing the song with Raja Kumari; we wrote the lyrics in my studio in Los Angeles. She is wonderful, energetic, and very talented. Raja was brimming with energy when she visited the studio, and we had a lot of fun while composing the song. In fact, we recorded the track the very day we penned down the lyrics, and the result was beautiful. It fills me with such joy knowing that we both came together to create something for India."

NB: What's on your playlist right now?

JL: "Lately, I have been listening to a lot of hip-hop, especially from the '90s and early 2000s. I also enjoy listening to classic rock, and some of my favourite artists are Kendrick Lamar and Leon Bridges."

NB: And what are your kids listening to these days?

JL: "I'd like to believe that Miles is my biggest fan on the planet—because every track that he requests turns out to be my song! However, Luna has a slightly more diverse range, and she enjoys listening to quite a few female artists, including Ariana Grande, Rihanna, Selena Gomez, and Beyoncé, among others."

NB: You've been through your share of emotional ups and downs, including losing a baby. When life gets tough, what gives you the strength to keep going?

JL: "Despite all the curveballs that life throws our way, I believe it is imperative to develop resilience. I honed this inner strength while dealing with the hurdles that came about when my family fell apart. As a young man, I faced numerous challenges with my mother, and in hindsight, that painful experience made me and my siblings more independent. Sometimes, when people deal with severe trauma, their reaction isn't always healthy. However, I do believe that we were able to respond to it by coming together as a family, and building a life we always dreamt of. Those moments of hardships have equipped me to face issues as an adult."

NB: Lastly, John, what legacy do you hope to leave behind?

JL: "First of all, I feel so lucky that I make music for a living. I believe the legacy we build is defined by the work we do, and when we create music, it lives beyond our lives...it goes on forever. As an art form, music stands the test of time—and even when I am long gone, people might continue to listen to my music. That said, the other aspect of my legacy includes my kids... Chrissy and I want to continue to build our family. She and I often talk about how, some day, our kids are going to have their own children—who will be our grandchildren—and we will all spend time together at our Sunday dinners. The future is distant, but that's the kind of a legacy we want to leave behind." ■



John Legend and Raja Kumari performing at the Walkers & Co. tour by Johnnie Walker in Mumbai





EXHIBITION

TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

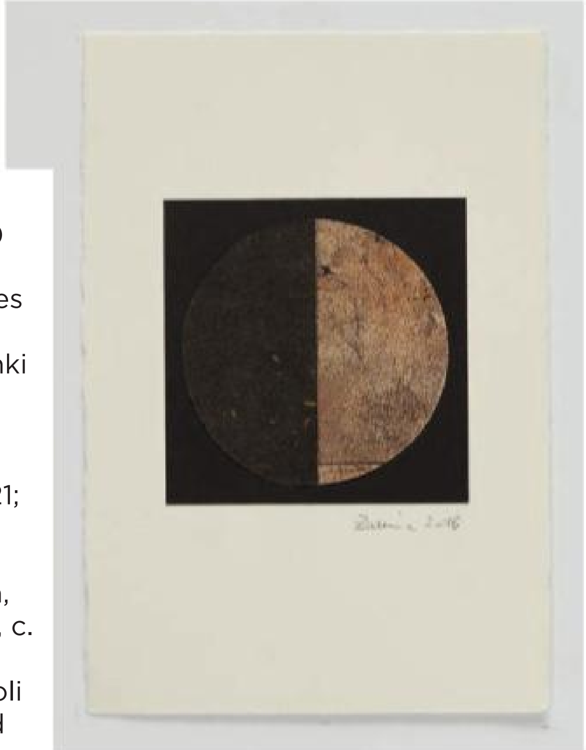
Artworks that blur the lines between the past, present, and future.

Notations on Time, a group exhibition showcasing the works of 20 contemporary artists, poses the compelling question: how does one measure time? Prompting a dialogue to highlight the complex, intertwined relationship between the past, present, and future—creations by artists Soumya Sankar Bose, Anoli Perera, Ayesha Sultana, Gauri Gill, Dayanita Singh, and Lala Rukh, among others, address the tangibility of time and explore its physiological dimensions.

"*Notations on Time* is an experiment in conjuring an eco-system of time where dreams intersect with history, and seasonal cycles with the measure of each breath. This exhibition is an attempt to read time against an urge to measure it...where works of art serve as fragments, haikus, and ciphers," Sabih Ahmed, Associate Director and Curator at Ishara Art Foundation puts forth. Relying on ontological concepts, the presentation yearns to understand how artists from South Asia and its diaspora perceive aesthetics, existence, and futurity.

Notations on Time is on view at the Ishara Art Foundation in Dubai till May 20





(Clockwise from top left) *Dasha Mata* from the series *'Forms of the Devi'* by Ladhki Devi, poster paint on mud-coated cloth, 2020-21; *Untitled* by Jagdish Swaminathan, oil on canvas, c. 1980; *Watch Series* by Anoli Perera, mixed media on paper, 2020

By Diya J Verma



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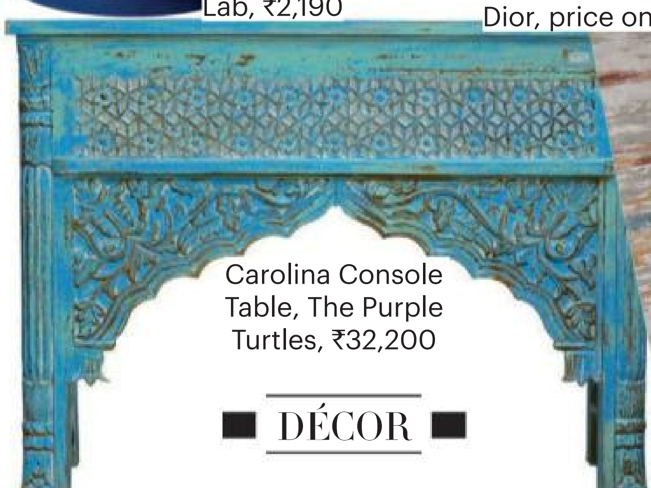
Tutti Frutti Banana Tree Box, Christian Dior, price on request



Amari Pedestal Platter, Artisan Lab, ₹2,190



Clayhead with Stand, Claymen, ₹4,500



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Jafari Woolen Rug, Obeetee, ₹63,000



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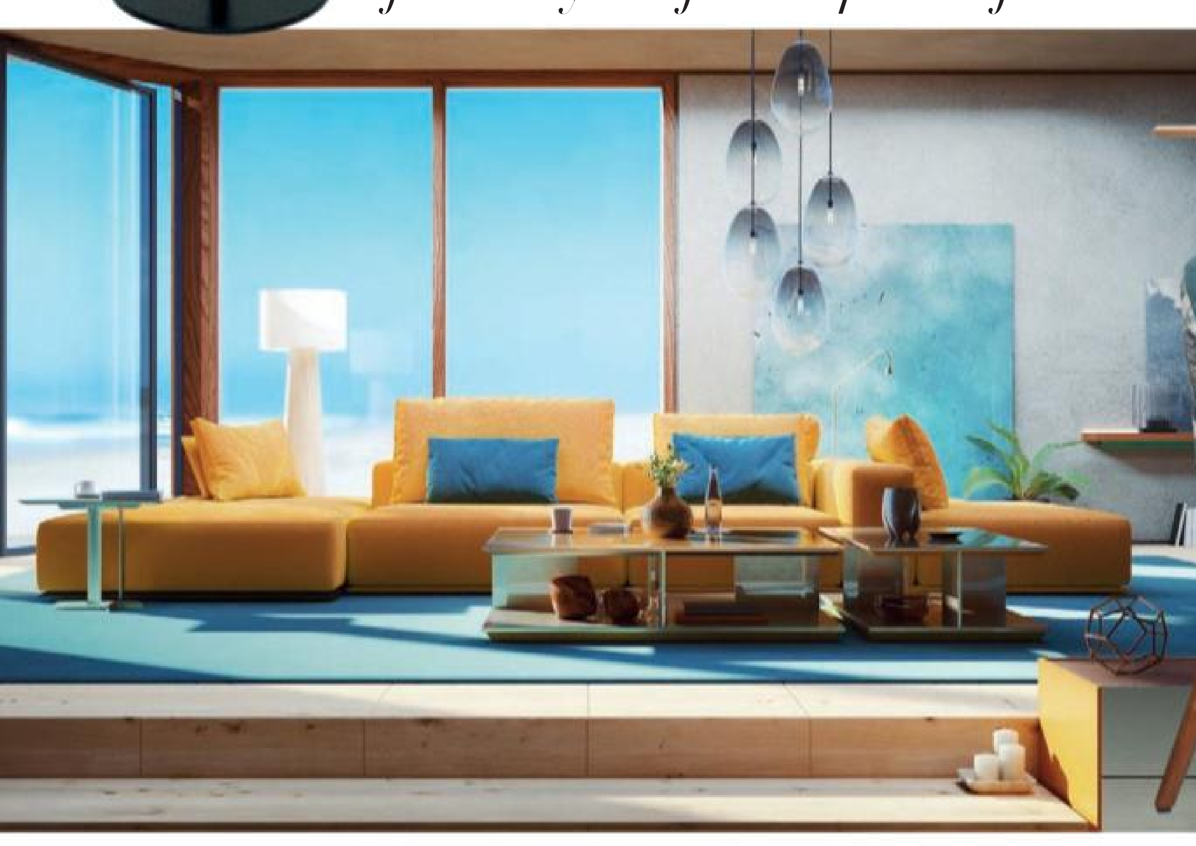
The Untraversed Path Wall Art, La Muse, ₹29,999



Aavaha Arm Chair, Alankaram, ₹32,000



Robi Lapis Vase, Casa Pop, ₹4,749



IMAGES COURTESY: THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY RHEA KIMBERLY MITRA.



The members of Indian Ocean: Amit Kilam, Tuheen Chakravorty, Nikhil Rao, Rahul Ram, Himanshu Joshi

THE BEAT OF NATURE

MUSIC

In an exclusive conversation with Bazaar India, vocalist and composer Rahul Ram of the rock-fusion band Indian Ocean reveals details about coming out with an album— Tu Hai*—after almost 10 years, how spirituality lies at the heart of nature, and their plans for the future.*

By SHAMBHAVI DUTTA

Harper's Bazaar: Tell us about your new album, *Tu Hai*. Since when has it been in the works?

Rahul Ram: "We had been recording songs at various studios between January and September last year. And as musicians, we constantly keep composing and recording tracks... For this album, some of the ideas and thoughts we've had have been in the works for a while. Some songs in the album took us nearly a decade to give them shape. For instance, *Iss Tan Dhan* is a song that my father made me listen to as a child, while the basic vocal melody for *Jungle* was composed back in 1998.

Rebirth is also a relatively old track [2015], and the basic structure of *Jaadu Maaya* was made in 2014, and *Tu Hai* was composed in 2018. Initially, we planned on releasing all these songs separately, as singles, but eventually, we decided to launch an album since it would have more weightage and gravitas."

HB: You are releasing an album after a decade...

RR: "I can't believe it either...it is finally happening. The album *Tu Hai* was supposed to release in 2020, since most of the songs were recorded by 2019. However, due to the pandemic, we had to put the release on hold. During that period, we composed songs for four films (*Masaan*, *Chakki*, *Kanpuriye*, *Chhote Nawab*) along with a show called *Jugaadistan*, and a musical, too.

HB: Your album *Tu Hai* represents themes of climate change. How important is it to use music to call for social change?

RR: "I believe artists are usually at the forefront when it comes to calling for change. For art is a reflection of society. While artists are essential to society, it is important to understand that music

> "It is the artists who are usually at the forefront when it comes to calling for social change." —Rahul Ram



and art can not cause social change alone. However, it spearheads the momentum of change and is an essential impetus.

HB: The song *Tu Hai* questions the existence of the supreme being. How can one remain spiritual in a modern world?



RR: "Spirituality becomes more important in a fast-paced environment, because it allows you to slow down and self-reflect. Otherwise, life will feel empty. Today, people practice spirituality in different ways. Some turn to religion and rituals, while others turn to different methods. But, at the end of the day, it always boils down to trying to become the best person you can be."

HB: The album art is intriguing and has multiple elements. Can you explain what it means?

RR: "A few years ago, Priya Brahmbatt sent us an artwork on Facebook... We eventually became friends and she designed the first artwork for the single *Akhiyan Udeek Diyan* that we released on Times Music in 2016. This time around, we sent her all the songs and Priya effortlessly combined the elements together, and she's done a brilliant job."

HB: How do you explore new tracks?

RR: **"**We are an old-fashioned jam-band. When we meet, we sit together in a circle with our instruments and explore tunes. Every phrase and beat is composed with love, care, and respect... Maybe that is why it takes us so much time to release an album."

HB: Who are some of your favourite contemporary artists?

RR: "I really enjoy listening to the works of Agam and Thaikkudam Bridge. They are constantly evolving, and also compose tracks in different languages. I also like Avail, Motherjane, Parvaaz, and Swarathma."

HB: How do you overcome creative blocks?

RR: "Whenever we feel creatively blocked, we keep at it. Sometimes, we return to an idea after days, or even months or years."

HB: How significant is music in your life?

RR: "I think music is essential for all five of us. We may have had different careers, but it was our passion that brought us together to produce more music. In fact, if I don't meet the band for a few days, I feel really restless."

HB: Lastly, what are your future plans?

RR: "Currently, we are composing music for a show and three films. We will be on a two-month tour for *Tu Hai* from April 29 onwards. The band and I hope that we get to tour in South America, as it's the only inhabited continent we have never performed in." ■



(From top) The band's latest album *Tu Hai*; The Indian Ocean band captured posing candidly


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luxury, and more.



SO BAZAAR

TAKE CHARGE

Actor Kriti Sanon shares why failure is important, and five Bazaar India contributors pen exclusive essays on fate—and the role it has played in their lives.

Sequinned gown with tulle gloves, Laith Maalouf at Vanda Fashion Agency; Pandana Necklace, Cartier

HAIR: GABRIEL GEORGIOU AT ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT; MAKE-UP: SHRADDHA NAIK; VIDEOGRAPHER: RATNAKAR VALLABH; FASHION ASSISTANTS: ASU LONGKUMER AND RACHEL SIMTE; PRODUCTION: P PRODUCTIONS.

AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE

In an interview with Bazaar India, coverstar Kriti Sanon speaks about honing her craft, finding courage in trying times, and taking criticism with a pinch of salt.

Interview by MEGHNA SHARMA
Photographs by TARAS TARAPORVALA
Styling by EDWARD LALREMPUIA



Georgette one-shoulder dress, Atsu; Synapse Necklace and Pelage Ring, both Cartier



Sequinned gown with tulle gloves, Laith Maalouf at Vanda Fashion Agency;
Pandana Necklace and Pandana Ring, both Cartier

"I believe you learn more from your failures than you ever will from your successes—my mantra is to learn from my mistakes and move forward in life."

It's 8:30pm on a Friday. I receive a frantic call from Kriti Sanon's manager, letting me know that she has a 20-minute break in-between 'shots', and she'd like to do the interview now. For context: I had been chasing Kriti's team, rather incessantly, to work out a suitable time for this interview. And between film projects, appearances, and a lot more, Kriti's days have been chock-full. For starters, she is currently shooting for her upcoming film, *The Crew*. The announcement of this project garnered a huge interest from cinephiles, as Kriti stars alongside cinema royalty Tabu and Kareena Kapoor Khan... and the film is co-produced by Ekta Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor. It sounds like the perfect female-first project, but Kriti clarifies that "it is a good mix of strong men and women". "There's Diljit [Dosanjh] as the male lead, and director Rajesh Krishnan, so it's a full house," she explains.

As we begin talking, Kriti's responses are measured, but succinct. But as our conversation progresses, the guards seem to drop, and her honesty and vulnerability peek through. Counted amongst the top female actors in the country today, Kriti's quiet determination can be credited for her steady rise. A perfectionist by her own admission, the 32-year-old actor talks about all that she wants to accomplish in the near future, how she takes failures in her stride, and the ways she wants to utilise the power of social media for positive change.

Harper's Bazaar: What is keeping you busy these days?
Kriti Sanon: "I am currently shooting for *The Crew*, which is a very interesting project for me. I am working with two amazing female actors...we generally work with a lot of male actors, but to work with two leading ladies is a dream come true, and it's a lot of fun."
HB: And *Adipurush* [2023] is also releasing soon...
KS: "Yes, it's releasing in June, and I am getting butterflies in my stomach just thinking about it, because we have waited so long for this moment. We are all [cast and crew] extremely excited about it, because it is the kind of story not too many people get to be a part of. I feel blessed to have gotten a chance to play this character...it is a huge responsibility. This is a big project in terms of the storyline, the scale, and the characters—the *Ramayana* is an important part of our history and religion."
HB: Kriti, you dabbled in modelling before you signed your first film. Was being an actor always part of your plan?
KS: "Not at all... In fact, my plan was very different from what I eventually ended up doing. I come from a family of academics, and I was extremely studious. I was pursuing B.Tech, but destiny had other plans for me. I began modelling as a hobby...I wanted to give it a shot, because people would always tell me that I had the height and face for it. I did a few TV commercials, and that was, in a way, my first acting stint—whatever little acting one is required to do for advertisements. I really enjoyed being in front of the camera, and working in those ads made me realise that acting is something I could be good at. Soon after, I moved to Mumbai and felt I was getting better with every audition. Auditioning for several roles also made me more confident...something I lacked before. And I just knew that I had to be an actor...I love everything about filmmaking."





Satin gown with bow detailing, Atsu; Altesse Necklace, Cartier

Hair: Gabriel Georgiou at Anima Creative Management. Make-Up: Shraddha Naik. Videographer: Ratnakar Vallabh. Fashion Assistants: Asu Longkumer and Rachel Simte. Production: P Productions.

HB: Which genre of films are you most drawn to?
KS: "If you look at the last few films that I have done, it has been a mixed bag of sorts. But personally, I am drawn to love stories, and that's the one genre I haven't explored much yet. Some of my favourite films include *The Notebook* [2004], *P.S. I Love You* [2007], and *Pretty Woman* [1990]. To be honest, I am dying to work in a romantic film, but I haven't found a script that has struck a chord with me. I am looking for something challenging—in a way that I don't know how to execute it."
HB: You love a good challenge...
KS: "Absolutely! I have been offered roles in the past that I felt were easy for me to portray, but I took those because of other reasons. For instance, if it was an entertaining film, or if I was getting to work with a particular director or actor. But I love challenging scripts, where I don't know how to get into the skin of the character. So I am always looking for something that really scares me, because I know that will be an exciting project."
HB: In one of your old interviews, you said that you are a very ambitious person. Has the world ever made you feel apologetic for wanting it all?
KS: "Not at all! It depends on how one has been raised. I credit my parents for this particular trait, they always wanted me to excel in whatever I do. My mother is a professor, and she was the first woman in her family to work. In fact, she completed her Ph.D while she was pregnant with me. And being the firstborn, sometimes you have to shoulder the responsibility of setting an example. So I have always felt the need to be really good at whatever I do—I think it's inbuilt. And I am a perfectionist, almost irritatingly so. I remember feeling extremely nervous during my first photoshoot, and I screwed up a little. I came home crying because it bothered me that I didn't do well. But confidence can be built over time. I believe you learn more from your failures than you ever will from your successes—my mantra is to learn from my mistakes and move forward."
HB: Does criticism bother you?
KS: "I don't take everything that is being said about me too seriously. I have learned that no matter what you do, or how good you are, you can never please everyone—it is just not practical. I do take constructive criticism seriously...I understand when it is genuine. Having said that, there are days when I get affected by mean comments or something inaccurate that's been written about me, but I try to look at the positive side of life and move on."
HB: In moments of doubt, what gives you courage?
KS: "I rely on my family and close circle of friends, who I know will stand by me regardless of my successes and failures. They keep me grounded, and they keep me sane. Apart from that, sometimes it is nice to just hit pause, you know? Take a moment to look back at where you started from, and where you have reached...what you have gone through and all that you have achieved. It is crucial to give yourself a pat on the back."
HB: What would you say was the turning point in your career?
KS: "I can't think of one isolated incident, but there have been many milestones. Starting with my first film *Heropanti* [2014], which was a warm welcome into the industry. And then working in *Dilwale* [2015] alongside Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, and Varun Dhawan—that was a big milestone for me. In a way, *Bareilly Ki Barfi* [2017] was a turning point in my career. It made people realise that, '*Oh*, she can act'...and that I could play non-glamorous characters as well. *Bareilly Ki Barfi* got me the validation that I was craving for a while. And I really needed a role like that to dig deep into, in order to mould myself to portray a character like Bitti Mishra...it allowed me to showcase my range as an artist."

HB: Do you believe in the power of manifestation?
KS: "I believe in energy. If you put out positive energy in the world, you will achieve everything you want. And it might take longer than you want, but it will happen. Similarly, if you are constantly being negative, like, '*Oh*, I can't do this or I can't do that', then you restrict yourself mentally, and you won't be able to do it. So you need to blindly believe in yourself and be positive about the outcome."
HB: Do you have a vision board of the things you would like to achieve?
KS: "You know, I see a lot of videos on YouTube where they explain how one can create a vision board, but I have never been able to create one for myself. But I do have a very cute journal, and every once in a while, I write down my goals in it—just the things I want to achieve. It's nice to flip through it to remind myself of my goals."
HB: What is your relationship with social media?
KS: "It is a way for me to connect with my fans, allowing them to be a part of my life. As actors, we work in three or maybe four films in a year, and that's our only source of interaction with our fans. I enjoy sharing bits and pieces of my life with them to show them who I really am.

Social media can be a really positive space—we certainly saw that during Covid. I remember how powerful social media was during the second wave...it allowed people to share information, helped people procure oxygen cylinders and hospital beds... So I try to use social media for something positive, to inspire people in my own way.

For instance, around our birthdays, fans put in a lot of effort to make beautiful edits, and they send something handwritten...which is really sweet. But I remember, a couple of years ago, I wrote that if you really want to give me something on my birthday, then just make someone smile, or plant a tree, or feed stray dogs...like, just do something noble, and that would make me happy. And, the next year, a lot of my fans actually did that, and that made me feel so good. In a way, celebrities have so much power, and there is so much we can do with it. So I try to show them a part of my life, use it to voice an opinion...just create a positive space, you know? I mostly try and use it for positivity."
HB: What do you enjoy most about social media?
KS: "I am obsessed with skincare videos. And the more I watch them, the more they show up on my feed—it's the algorithm! This obsession has certainly increased my screen time, and I really want to cut it down."
HB: Speaking of which, you have beautiful skin. Tell us about your skincare routine.
KS: "I became obsessed with skincare during the lockdown...just like most of us. And I had also just turned 30, so I felt like I needed to take better care of my skin. I am a bit nerdy, so I have done a lot of research on the topic—like, I have watched hundreds of YouTube videos, learned about ingredients, etc, to the point where my mother was like, 'Can you stop watching YouTube?!'. So I have a skincare cycle where I use a mix of hydrating and exfoliating ingredients like Vitamin C, retinol, and ceramides. And the two things I never skip are sunscreen in the morning and double cleansing at night. Skincare is very therapeutic for me. It feels good to take care of my skin, and I like listening to my skin and selecting products basis what it needs."
HB: Do we sense a skincare brand in the works?
KS: "I can't reveal much, but all I can tell you is that it's there in my journal."
HB: Lastly, you have been in the industry for almost a decade now. How would you describe your journey so far, and where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?
KS: "It has been beautiful. I feel blessed to have evolved, not just as an actor, but also as a person. But there is a lot more that I want to achieve in the coming years. Starting with the directors I want to work with, the characters I want to portray... I want to produce films, tell a lot of stories, I want to creatively get involved in the filmmaking process... I also enjoy being an entrepreneur—I have a fitness start-up called The Tribe. So there is a lot to do, and hopefully, I will be able to accomplish all that I plan to." ■

SUPER EVERYTHING

Model. Activist. Icon... The world has spent more than three decades trying to define Naomi Campbell. But she'd rather do that for herself.

By OTEGHA UWAGBA
Styling by MARIKA-ELLA AMES

An important part of the mythos surrounding Naomi Campbell—supermodel, activist, fashion icon, and an occasional hothead—lies in her origin story. You probably already know it by now, but just to recap: Naomi, 15, a schoolgirl hailing from the fairly unremarkable streets of London's Streatham neighbourhood, was spotted by a model scout while out window-shopping in London's West End. It's a story...a world away from how most successful models these days seem to be discovered, either scouted via Instagram, or ushered to the front of the queue by virtue of their famous parents. Between her and fellow '90s icon (and close friend) Kate Moss, Naomi was responsible for a generation of British teenage girls trying their best to look 'modely' as they wandered around the big Topshop on Oxford Street, hoping they too might be 'spotted' while out shopping on a Saturday afternoon.

Naomi's backstory makes it seem like a chance encounter which was responsible for changing the trajectory of her life, as though hers is some sort of 'right place, right time' Cinderella story. But then, as you're sitting opposite her in a hotel suite in a discreet European location, you realise that with a face like hers—those formidable cheekbones sweeping upward as though in tribute to the celestial beings that must have played a role in their creation, and those plump, perfectly proportioned lips—Naomi Campbell was always going to be famous.

"I've been asked to write a book by literally everyone," she tells me, settling into a sofa. The prospect of a Campbell memoir is tantalising—one wonders what her version of the many tabloid headlines that have been written about her might be—but so far, she's held off. "It's time-consuming," she explains, and anyway, she doesn't want to use a ghostwriter. She'd rather tell her story herself.

Campbell is 'Old Hollywood', carrying herself with the self-assurance of someone who has enjoyed pre-aughts fame—that is, proper celebrity. She does not traffic in the politics of relatability or studied humility that seems to be the default of today's up-and-coming starlets. Her Instagram is wall-to-wall glamour and jet-setting; our conversation is frequently punctuated with the names of the wildly famous celebrities and fashion designers she counts as close friends.

She has somehow remained at the white-hot centre of fashion for more than three decades; her place has been cemented in the industry's history. So, of course, I agree to drop everything and hop on a plane the day after Christmas for just an hour of her time. For all her hauteur, there is also, at times, something quite girlish about Naomi—like when we sneak out on the terrace of her hotel room so she can have a cigarette. ("I'm going to quit on New Year's Eve," she informs me, slightly conspiratorially.)

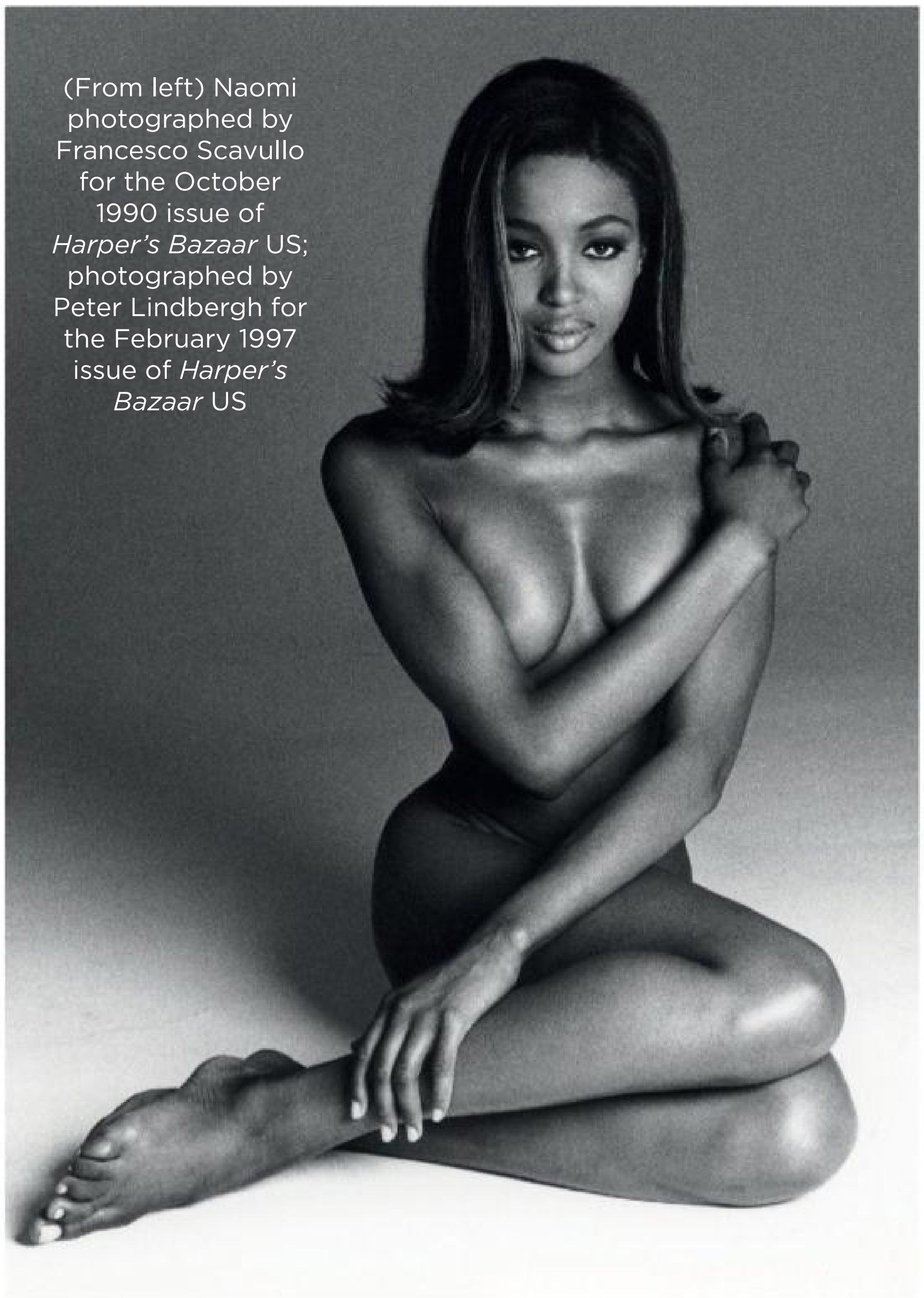
She has just come off the back of a dizzying few weeks of travel, a period that saw her jet from Milan to Miami, Miami to London, London to Egypt (where she sat front row at a Dior menswear show), back to London again for the British Fashion Awards, then on to the Senegalese capital of Dakar to witness Chanel's first-ever runway show in sub-Saharan Africa. Then Saudi Arabia to London. London to New York. Back to London. Soon, she will head back to the Middle East, and then on to Senegal again for vacation.

Why, I ask, is she still working so hard? Most of her compatriots have long since retired, emerging every now and then for the odd legacy campaign, but otherwise, it seems, content to slow down. Naomi, by contrast, is still as booked and busy as she was in her '90s heyday, fronting campaigns for Balmain, Hugo Boss, and Pat McGrath Labs in the past year alone. What further peaks could there possibly be for her to scale?

"I just like what I do," Naomi says. "I am privileged at this point in my life that I can choose the things that I do.



Coat, Jacquemus;
Balloon Pumps, Loewe



(From left) Naomi photographed by Francesco Scavullo for the October 1990 issue of *Harper's Bazaar* US; photographed by Peter Lindbergh for the February 1997 issue of *Harper's Bazaar* US



And I am also blessed that I still have all these great opportunities offered to me. So why not?"

"I have nothing to prove," she continues. "It's what I like doing. My work is hard, but it's joyful at the same time. I am still enjoying what I do, and that's also important—to enjoy what you do."

That work is no longer—and hasn't been for some time—solely modelling. A significant part of Naomi's time is now spent engaging in a mixture of activism, philanthropy, and cultural ambassadorship, often via Fashion for Relief, the nonprofit she founded in 2005 to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina, which has since gone on to raise more than $15 million [1.5 crores] for charitable causes worldwide. In October, she launched Emerge, an initiative focused on discovering and promoting the next generation of creative talent from emerging communities around the world, with a star-studded gala and fashion show in Qatar. In layman's terms, that means apprenticeships, mentoring, and skill development within the creative industries—fashion, yes, but also art, entertainment, and tech.

Naomi's desire to uplift the next generation of fashion creatives is also evident in the number of younger models she has taken under her wing. Among that cohort is Adut Akech, the doll-faced 23-year-old South Sudan–born model who is currently one of the most sough after faces in the industry, thanks in no small part to Naomi's support.

"You know how a mom cares for her child? Whenever I'm around her, I feel safe," Adut says. "She's like a comfort blanket. Even though I'm so far away from my biological mother, I feel like I also have another figure who's taking care of me like her own child." Adut first met Naomi in 2017 on the set of Tim Walker's Alice in Wonderland–themed Pirelli Calendar shoot, which famously showcased an all-black cast. It was, Adut says, a "fangirl moment, but I was like, 'Don't be weird.'" When she moved to New York City by herself a few months later, she reached out to Naomi, who had given her number. "She cares for me how she would care for her own daughter," Adut says. "Every time I hang out with her, she makes sure I get in my car safely. 'Text me as soon as you get home.' She will not sleep if I don't text her."

There are many ways to be a mother. "I mother a lot of people," Naomi tells me when we broach the topic. She says she has always known she wanted to be one. "Always."

In May of 2021, Naomi announced she had welcomed a daughter. "It wasn't about when," she says. "Everyone's life takes a different course. And it's about whom, and it's

a very important question because you want to make sure that you do that with the right person. [You're] connected for the rest of your life." She pauses for what feels like much longer than a few seconds. "That's why I chose to do it alone."

But to embark on single parenthood at the age of 50 is quite an undertaking. Was she not nervous about the prospect?

"No."

Not at all?

"No, no." After a moment, she reconsiders. "Well, I guess I may be nervous, [in the sense of] 'Am I doing everything right?' But you go with the flow." Naomi told few people about her plans to have a child, though one person she did tell was the actress Cameron Diaz (or "Cammie," as she refers to her), to whom she also now turns for parenting advice. "I've known her for a long time, and I really love and respect her. I told her, and she was just like, 'Okay.' She's just a stand-up, loyal friend."

Otherwise, Naomi is somewhat reluctant to expound on the subject of motherhood, wary of it becoming the defining narrative of her public identity—a feeling many who embark on motherhood will recognise.

We are still out on the terrace, having permanently relocated there from the hotel room, and the sun is beginning to set. High up on a hill, looking down at the lights of a nearby town twinkling in the distance, it is an absurdly romantic view. Against this backdrop, Naomi softens.

In the coming days, she will travel to Senegal for a vacation, and though Naomi frequently refers to herself as a "global citizen," it's clear that this is the part of the world that truly has her heart. "The minute I land in Africa, I feel…well, for one, we don't have racism. So that's a big tick off the box," she says, describing the psychic weight that is lifted when one doesn't have to worry about the prospect of a racist micro aggression, when you can just blend in among your kinfolk (as much as someone as famous as her can ever truly blend in). Naomi talks dreamily of Kenya, where she has a home, and of its spectacular natural beauty. "I'm just happy that people are finally understanding how beautiful the African continent is," she tells me, rhapsodising about Senegalese dishes like *thieboudienne* and *yassa*. (Sensing an opportunity, I try to goad her into picking a side in the 'jollof wars,' a jokey rivalry between diasporic Ghanaians and Nigerians about which country makes the best *jollof* rice, but she sidesteps my attempts, smiling. "I'm not getting involved.")


Naomi with Adut Akech at a Fashion for Relief charity gala in London in 2019

And of course, as always, there's fashion. Naomi is as excited by the potential fashion has to generate economic growth within Africa, as she is by the actual clothes, though she lists Kenneth Ize, Steve French, and Thebe Magugu among her favourite African designers.




(From left) Naomi with Nelson Mandela in South Africa in 1998; with Adut and students at a Fashion for Relief charity gala in London in 2019; with Senegal's president, Macky Sall, in Dakar in 2022

"Fashion's a billion-dollar business," she says. "That's why I want the countries I go to, the emerging markets, I want them all to understand and invest in it and support their creatives. That's why I'm doing what I am doing."

Talk of wealth and investment in the African fashion industry brings us neatly to two recent landmark events that occurred within just days of each other in December: Dior's Kim Jones staging a fashion show in front of the Pyramids of Giza and Chanel's Métiers d'art show in Dakar. I worry about the potential for such relationships to become extractive or exploitative—not to mention the danger of the current focus on Africa merely being a trend before the fashion world moves on.

When I put this tension to Naomi, she responds evenly: "It's not going to be a trend because I'm not going to allow it." Both Dior and Chanel have made long-term commitments to investing in local communities, she assures me; that is a prerequisite of her attending such events. "There's a couple of things I've said no to in the past, where it's like, 'Okay, we need you to sit in the front row because we've got African designers.' But I'm like, 'Yeah, but are the African designers going to come out and take a bow? Who's taking the bow?'" she says. "And they say, '*Oh*, the designer of the brand is.' And I'll be like, 'Nah, that's not for me.' But Kim [Jones]'s commitment to Egypt and to Africa is real. Chanel's commitment to Senegal is real. They don't just go in and do the show and leave. They go in and they make a commitment to the infrastructure."

In 2020, the fashion world (along with nearly every other industry) responded to the global Black Lives Matter protests, as well as the charged conversations about racism that followed, by pledging greater diversity and more BIPOC representation at senior levels of the industry. A year later, a survey conducted by *The New York Times* revealed that, overall, little had changed. There can, with social-justice movements like anti-racism, come a point where pushback arises, as those who are invested in the status quo—who perhaps at one point were even in favour of progress—become fatigued or resistant to change, and begin to feel that "enough" has been done. A sense that "you've had your time; we've acknowledged your culture," as Naomi puts it, agreeing that she, too, has observed this tendency, though she is resolute all the same. "It's not going back. Period," she says. "We're not a trend."

But given how vocal Naomi is about racism and diversity, how on earth did she end up walking in the highly controversial Yeezy show during Paris Fashion Week last October, at which Kanye West sent models down the runway clad in T-shirts with the racist slogan 'White Lives Matter' printed on them?

"Didn't see it. I was on the top floor," she replies crisply, explaining that the layout of the venue meant she didn't see the T-shirts, didn't know about them, in fact, until she got back to her hotel and her agent brought her up to speed.

"I was shocked like everybody else. It's not something I condone," she replies when pressed, but at this point, I sense resistance. "Next question; I'm not getting into it." A taut silence hangs over us. As much as she doesn't want to talk about it, I also don't want to move on just yet. "One thing I'm not going to do is sit here and slag [off] my own. I'm not doing that," she elaborates, by which she means, presumably, that she doesn't want to get into a scenario where one Black celebrity is publicly criticising another, with the headlines that that might generate.

She does eventually concede, however, that she felt somewhat used by the stunt. "It wasn't fair to us not to know and to put us in that situation. I went there with the best intentions...to be supportive."

Just days after I interview Naomi, Vivienne Westwood, the legendary designer and doyenne of the British fashion industry, passes away at 81. When I hear the news, I think instantly of the famous image of Naomi falling—with complete and utter grace—mid-runway during a 1993 Vivienne Westwood show, courtesy of a nine-inch pair of the designer's famous Ghillie platform heels. That image has since gone on to become a celebrated part of fashion history is perhaps proof of Naomi's iconicity, that she could somehow make falling over look chic and aspirational rather than an embarrassing faux pas.

Tributes to Vivienne pour in from across the fashion industry, including from Naomi. "Your legacy is just beginning," her Instagram post says, "and it will be etched in stone for forever, as your contribution to our industry is immeasurable."

When I ask what Naomi hopes her own legacy might be, she scoffs slightly; that isn't something she's particularly preoccupied by. "Accolades are nice, but that doesn't make or break me, or define what I need to do. I'm not looking for that. I do what I do because I feel passionate about needing to do it."

For her, the reward comes in "just seeing [the next generation] do well....That is what makes me happy." ■

"I have nothing to prove. My work is hard, but it's joyful at the same time. I'm still enjoying what I do, and that's also important—to enjoy what you do."



Blouse, pants, necklace, and belt, all Chanel

Hair: Karim Belghiran; Makeup: Esther Edeme for Pat McGrath Labs; Manicure: Solange Mendy; Production: Western Promises and Incredible Studios. Special thanks to Black Rock Senegal. Photographs taken in Dakar, Senegal



Date With DESTINY

Five Bazaar India contributors contemplate the idea of fate...and navigating life on their own terms.

By DIYA J VERMA



SHRUTI HAASAN

Actor and Singer

"Life may deal you a bad hand, or take away a good hand you were already dealt... how you turn it around is the game of life, isn't it? When it comes to matters of destiny, a lot is based on what one makes for themselves. And while there are those who depend on the powers of the Universe, I believe in paving my own path; living life on your own terms is ultimately what changes the course of your journey.

While there are several factors that come into play, such as destiny or luck, fate isn't an overarching defining force in one's life. Instead, your faith in yourself is what defines your course. If you ask with faith, chances are, your request will be granted. We've all been handed heirlooms from our families—our childhood memories, our ways of thinking, be it positive or negative—and as we grow older, we must turn them around for ourselves; build on what is good, and work on what is bad.

Doing so does not rest on fate, but your grit and the will to manifest your best life. Of course, there are things that are beyond one's control...the loss of a loved one, heartbreak, financial upheaval, and so on, but would I call it destiny? Perhaps, not. It is just part and parcel of life.

Funnily enough, on the day I was born, a play of fate came to the fore. My father wrote down a name for me...'Mruti', and my mother read it as 'Shruti'. *Shruti* refers to all the conceivable notes in music...and the rest is history. I do believe that people come into our lives in the form of an angel or a demon. The Universe places different people in different junctures of our journey, for a reason.

On the professional front, I had never thought I would pursue acting—or be in front of the camera. My first film came to me by chance, and thereafter, sheer determination helped me carve my own niche in the industry. In reference to the nepotism debate, while I do feel that hailing from an influential family, or having the right connections can open the door of opportunities quicker, it is your diligence and determination that counts.

> *"Life may deal you a* BAD *hand, or take away a* GOOD *hand you were already* DEALT*...how you turn it around is the game of* LIFE."

When I look around me, I am surrounded by people who have fought their fate, their birth order, a difficult situation at home, or their physical and mental disability to make a better life for themselves. Ultimately, we are all handed a deck of mixed cards. And when these cards are shuffled, they come in a certain order. It's a game of life...and it all depends on how you play."

KUBBRA SAIT
Actor and Author

"As the adage goes, 'Life isn't happening to you. It is happening for you'... The way I look at it, destiny is an amalgam of consistent choices made with awareness. At my core, I believe I am a blessed human. I have faith that a force greater than me is propelling me in the direction of evolution and growth.

We are in charge of the outcomes that we desire...and I say this after reflecting upon my own experiences. Nothing comes without hard work and commitment to the goal you set for yourself. And in case things don't turn out the way that you anticipated, make sure you still show up, every single day...

Relocating to Mumbai after working at Microsoft was considered to be a bold and brave move—a calculated risk that I had taken with a clear sense of purpose. I had to block out the noise and stay true to myself. It was for me. It was my dream.

When I kept pushing through relentlessly is when I began believing in the phrase, 'You were at the right place, at the right time.' Destiny will have no choice but to work in your favour if you are kind to yourself, persevere, and are laser-focused on achieving your goals.

Over the years, I've learnt to take risks and look beyond fear. I recently chanced upon a beautiful expression, 'Most of the shadows in life are caused by standing in on our own sunshine.' I am living a dream that was once bleak...

Of course life comes with its fair share of challenges, but if it wasn't so, the thrill of life would be amiss. I may have watered down a few years by being a people-pleaser, but now, I tell myself to listen to my gut...and look where it has brought me. We've only just begun."

"I have faith that a FORCE *greater than me is* PROPELLING *me in the direction of* EVOLUTION *and* GROWTH."







NEHA DHUPIA

Actor and Entrepreneur

"Oftentimes, I have questioned the powers of the Universe. 'I know I worked hard...what next?,' I ask myself. Only to come to realise that it is a confluence of the right place, the right time, the right circumstance, and your best efforts. Whatever happens, happens for a reason—and the right reason, might I add.

Working hard is an integral part of life; it is imperative to take matters into your own hands, and the only way in which one can do so is by acknowledging what your heart desires. If you'd asked back me in my 20s, my perspective on life would have been a lot different... But today, I want to take charge. Remember to give yourself time, give the Universe time. Believe in the process—be it destiny or fate at play.



"Allow LIFE *to take its* NATURAL *course. You have to* WALK *the extra* MILE *to reap the* FRUITS *of your* LABOUR."

From winning the Miss India pageant title in 2002 to beginning my career in the film industry, turning producer, and even becoming a mother, my journey has been an interplay of destiny and determination. Today, at 42, I tell myself: 'Allow life to take its natural course. You have to walk the extra mile to reap the fruits of your labour.' The days you ask, 'Why me?', remind yourself that there is someone out there, acting in your best interest.



ZOHRA SHAKTI

Priestess, Alchemist, Tarot Empress, and Crystal Therapist

"We are the Universe in motion... or as it is said in Sanskrit, *aham brahmasmi* [the unity of the *atman* or soul]. Given that we are Source having a human experience, how can we be powerless? Visualise a cosmic conference in the skies, you are charting your own course, as your ancestors and spirit guides offer support...You hold the power to write your own story—the myriad experiences you will go through, the people you will meet along the way, and more importantly, the challenges that will catalyse growth. While our destiny serves as the overarching script of life, free will lends us room to wriggle and chart our own course in the human realm.



"The unknown is where the MAGIC *lies; the* DIVINE *plan is already in* PLACE*...you must simply* TRUST."

Back in the day, on my way to college, I'd often come across a hoarding that read 'tarot'. This was over a decade ago—a time when there were no pop culture references about the esoteric. Without giving it much thought, I opted for tarot reading as my subject of study, coupled with other disciplines as a safety measure. Believe it or not, my professor picked tarot reading...and the rest is history. Was it meant to be? Was it written in the stars?

Believe that your hunch, your impulse, will lead you in the direction of growth... The unknown is where the magic lies; the divine plan is already in place. Never second guess yourself. You must simply trust."



PREETI SHENOY

Bestselling Novelist and Illustrator

"I do believe in fate; ironically, I also believe that one charts their own destiny. And while they might seem contrary, they are, indeed, two sides of the same coin. We cannot fight what is to come, but we can certainly walk the road that leads us to our goals. Even our dreams must be fuelled with action, for them to materialise. But in the same breadth, if the heart does not get what it desires, hold your head high, for there is something better in store for you... Lessons are learnt from failure and rejection—in preparation for the better things that lie ahead.

I'm a tarot card reader, and unlike astrology, where certain events are 'fixed' or destined, the tarot simply shows you the course your life may take. Think of it as a global positioning system (GPS) that presents the potential obstacles you will encounter en route to your destination. Now, it is up to you to go down that road—or not.



Destiny has played a colossal role in my life... While I've always written, I had never envisioned becoming a published author with 15 bestseller books! It was a domino effect, set in motion by my destiny, in addition to sheer discipline and resolve, courtesy of me.

It was the year 2006. My father, whom I was extremely close to, passed away all of a sudden, while in conversation with my mother. He was just 66...with minimal to no age-related ailments. I was overcome with deep grief, and as I found myself drowning, I commenced my blog. I began penning the mundane moments of life, which are what make life all the more special. Life need not always be grand, and when we learn to cherish the smaller, simpler joys, life becomes magical. When my father was snatched away from me, it drove me to write with a ferocity I never knew I was capable of.

I came to terms with the fact that we cannot fight our destiny...We do not know what is going to happen in the next hour, even. It is just an illusion of control that we possess. All that we have is this given moment—the here and now. Yes, we may not have power over the dreadful things that could potentially happen to us, but we do have a choice in deciding how to respond.

Turn your grief into a stepping stone, an agent of growth, and transform yourself into the best version of you. My father's passing pushed me to write every single day, and the ultimate outcome of these consistent actions gave me my first book. Over time, the one multiplied into 15. Remind yourself, time and again, that the best is yet to come. Back then, I wouldn't have believed it, and yet, here I am, living my dream." ■

"We cannot FIGHT *what is to* COME, *but we can* CERTAINLY *walk the* ROAD *that leads us to our* GOALS."


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A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Bazaar India pays ode to the skies and the soil... heralding a new season and transformative styles that will compel you to embrace nature.

Photographs by Chandrahas Prabhu
Styling by Pranay Jaitly and Shounak Amonkar

HAIR AND MAKE-UP: KRISANN FIGUEIREDO. MODEL: DAYENA ERAPPA. FASHION ASSISTANTS: SHUBHAM JAWANJAL, CHAITANYA BALWANT AND ARJUN S KUMAR. PRODUCTION: STUDIO GAABA.



Georgia Hardinge dress, AISPI x Georgia Hardinge, ₹21,000; gemstone earrings with emerald- The Designer Jeweller, Varuna D Jani, price on request

DEEP AS THE OCEAN

The soothing hues of blue transform into statement pieces that are highlighted through standout prints, ruffles, sequins, and form-flattering silhouettes.

Photographs by CHANDRAHAS PRABHU
Styling by PRANAY JAITLY and SHOUNAK AMONKAR



Hand embroidered gathered cape dress, Rahul Mishra, price on request; pumps, stylist's own



Hat, Belinda Bawa, price on request; dress, H&M x Mugler, price on request



Metal wire one shoulder drape, Rimzim Dadu, price on request; gold earring, Varuna D Jani- The Designer Jeweller, price on request



Cerulean studded mini skirt, ₹12,500, and cerulean studded blouse, ₹13,500, both Moonray; The Modern Gypsy Necklace, Amrapali Jewels, price on request



Three-tier abstract bird and tile print, hand micro-pleated dress, ₹25,000, and taffeta tile print oversized trench, ₹10,000, both Saaksha & Kinni; dual-tone polish earrings, Varuna D Jani- The Designer Jeweller, price on request; shoes, stylist's own





The Cleo Hand-embellished Cape and darted tailored trousers, Pankaj & Nidhi, ₹48,500; Statement Swirl Hoop Earrings, ₹7,999, and Cross Ring, ₹5,999, both Isharya; So Kate Pumps, Christian Louboutin, price on request; stockings, stylist's own



Glass fringe gathered kaftan dress, AKHL, ₹52,100; white gold earrings with full-cut diamonds, opal stones, blue sapphires & pearls, price on request, Victorian gold necklaces with polki diamonds, full-cut diamonds and tanzanites, prices on request, all Amrapali Jewels



Hair and make-up: Krisann Figueiredo. Model: Dayena Erappa. Fashion Assistants: Shubham Jawanjal, Chaitanya Balwant and Arjun S Kumar. Production: Studio Gaaba.





INTO THE WOODS

Think muted pieces with dainty details in crochet, sheer, and tulle to liven up your summer fantasy.

Photographs by JEM MITCHELL

Styling by MIRANDA ALMOND

Lace and mesh corset, linen tank top, metal, resin, pearl and lacquer earrings, metal, ribbon, resin and lacquer choker, all Dior; bead necklace, Milne Watson





THIS AND OPPOSITE PAGE:
Silk top and silk trousers,
both Fendi



Embroidered jacket, lace nightdress, both Prada; Cotton and rubber boots, Tod's



Embroidered jumper, chiffon and sequin skirt, satin hat, all Ermanno Scervino; boots, Tod's



Cotton jacket, matching shorts, knit top, all Hermès; Leather boots, Tod's



Waxed-cotton jacket, metallic dress, both Loewe; wellies, Hunter



Cotton shirt, jeans, jersey bikini top, and wellies, all Celine; bead necklaces, Milne Watson



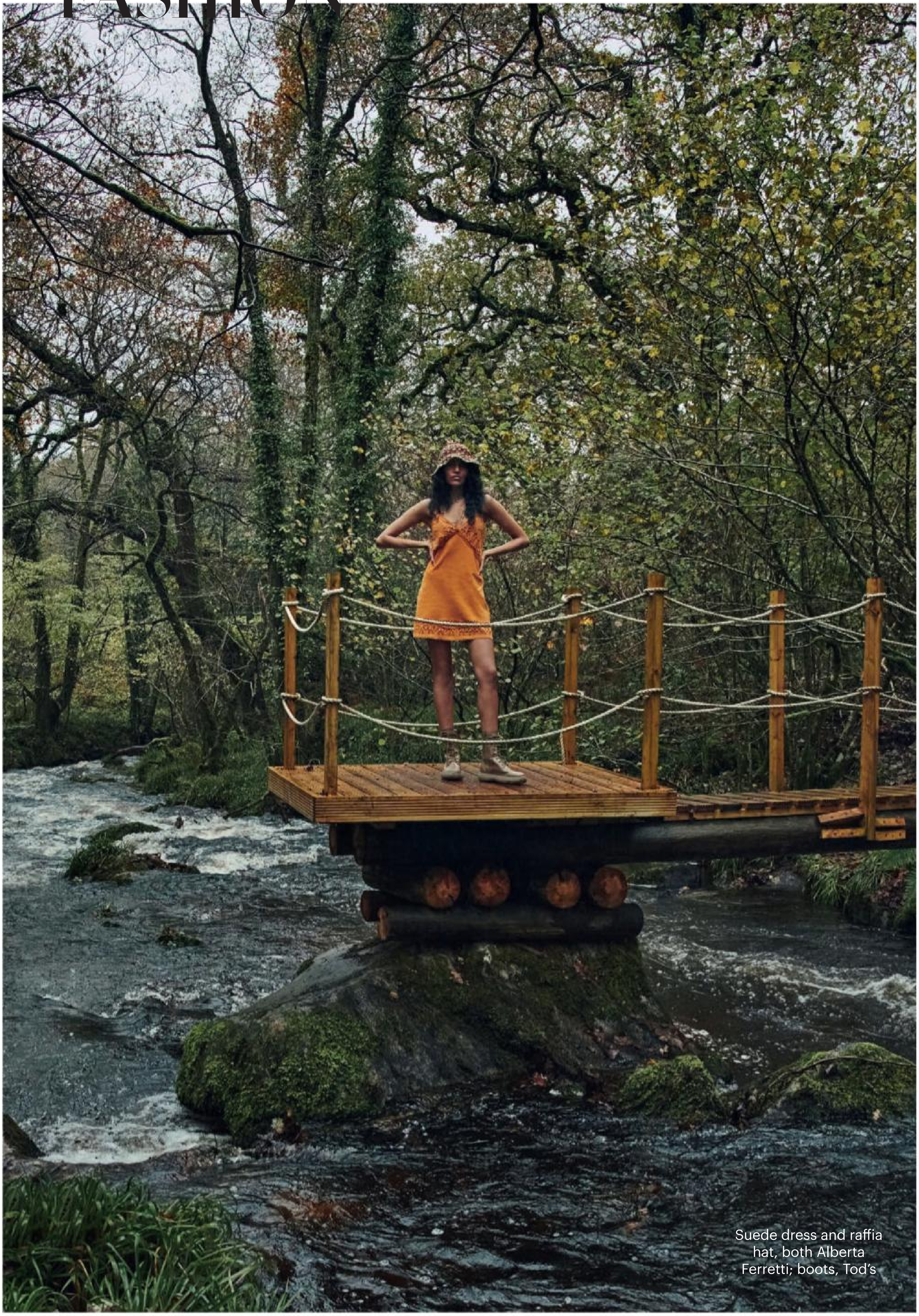
Silk-mix shirt, Marina Rinaldi; bead necklace, Milne Watson



Satin bomber jacket, matching shorts, and net veil, all Simone Rocha; wellies, Hunter



Lace and mesh corset, linen tank top, cotton and silk jacquard trousers, metal, ribbon, resin and lacquer choker, all Christian Dior; bead necklaces, all Milne Watson



Suede dress and raffia hat, both Alberta Ferretti; boots, Tod's



Cotton and silk tunic, jeans, both Tory Burch; mules, Miista; bead necklaces, Milne Watson



Shorts, gilet, cotton shirt, cotton jumper (worn around waist), cotton scarf, all Polo Ralph Lauren


Muslin bra, matching shorts, cotton trench-coat, cotton and mesh socks, boots, metal, ribbon and stone choker, all Christian Dior; bead necklaces, Milne Watson



Cotton and leather coat, windbreaker, cotton and rubber boots, all Tod's



Wool dress and wood clogs, both Etro; socks, Falke; bead necklace, Milne Watson



dress, matching boots, both Louis Vuitton

Hair: Neil Moodie. Make-up: Nicola Brittin. Fashion Assistant: Crystalle Cox. Production: Chebabo & Co. Casting by Kin Casting. Model: Pooja Mor at Viva. Location Courtesy: Cabilla Cornwall



THAT'S A WRAP

Feel at home with luxe furnishings in mixed neutrals, abstract prints, lush silk...for a stylish home.

Photographs by CHANDRAHAS PRABHU
Styling by PRANAY JAITLY and SHOUNAKAMONKAR



Tabeer Black Hand Knotted Silk And Woollen Rug (on the model), ₹5,67,000 and Vasyl Maroon Hand Knotted Silk And Wool Rug (on the floor), ₹5,67,000, both JJ Valaya; Armor Silver Ear Cuffs, ₹9,900, Double Crescent Silver Ring, ₹12,000, and Bella Silver Earrings, ₹12,760, all Vinita Michael; Louren 100 Pumps, Jimmy Choo, price on request



Kantha Rag Stitch Bedcover, ₹25,000, Abraham & Thakore; Le Palm Serefina Earcuffs, ₹12,500, Oh Drip Nora Ring, ₹7,250, Drip OH Nora Cigar Ring, ₹6,000, all Outhouse



FSP Monogrammed Comforter with 'P' Link, Falguni Shane Peacock, price on request; Parakeet Green Quintuple Ring, ₹5,999 and Parakeet Green Double Hoop Earrings, ₹8,999, both Isharya; Goldie Jolie Sandals, Christian Louboutin, price on request



Iconomash Rug, ₹18,950 and Iconomash Cushion, ₹13,950, both all Shivan & Narresh; Rani Pink Swirl Hoop Earrings, Isharya, ₹7,999



Custom FSP Bed Spread with the Black Panther Print (on the model) and FSP Monogrammed Comforter (worn as a cape) both prices on request, both Falguni Shane Peacock; Festive Choker, Valliyan, ₹13,000; Stanisandal, Christian Louboutin, price on request







Nisha Dark Black Double Bed Cover, Aadyam Handwoven, ₹5,499; Twirled Silvia Studs, Radhika Agrawal Jewels, ₹3,500

Make-up: Krisann Figueiredo. Hair: Rakshanda Irani. Model: Chandini Purohit. Fashion Assistants: Shubham Jawanjal, Chaitanya Balwant, and Arjun S Kumar.



BLOOM WITH JOY

Let the freshest ensembles — in earthy tones — inspire new beginnings and call on you to appreciate nature's glory.

Photographs by SYLWIA SZYPLIK
Styling by TILLY WHEATING

Straw hat, Lock & Co.; linen top, Vivienne Westwood; linen shorts and belt, both Polo Ralph Lauren; sandals, Clarks


Suede waistcoat, Zadig & Voltaire; cotton shirt, SS Daley; jeans, Levi's; gold, peridot, and diamond earrings, Boodles; silk jacket, Loro Piana



Floral mini-skirt, Longchamp; silk organza underskirt, Emilia Wickstead; sleeveless top, Tory Burch; satin heels, Manolo Blahnik; crystal cocktail ring, Swarovski



Technical fabric dress, Prada; gold and diamond pendant necklace, Boodles

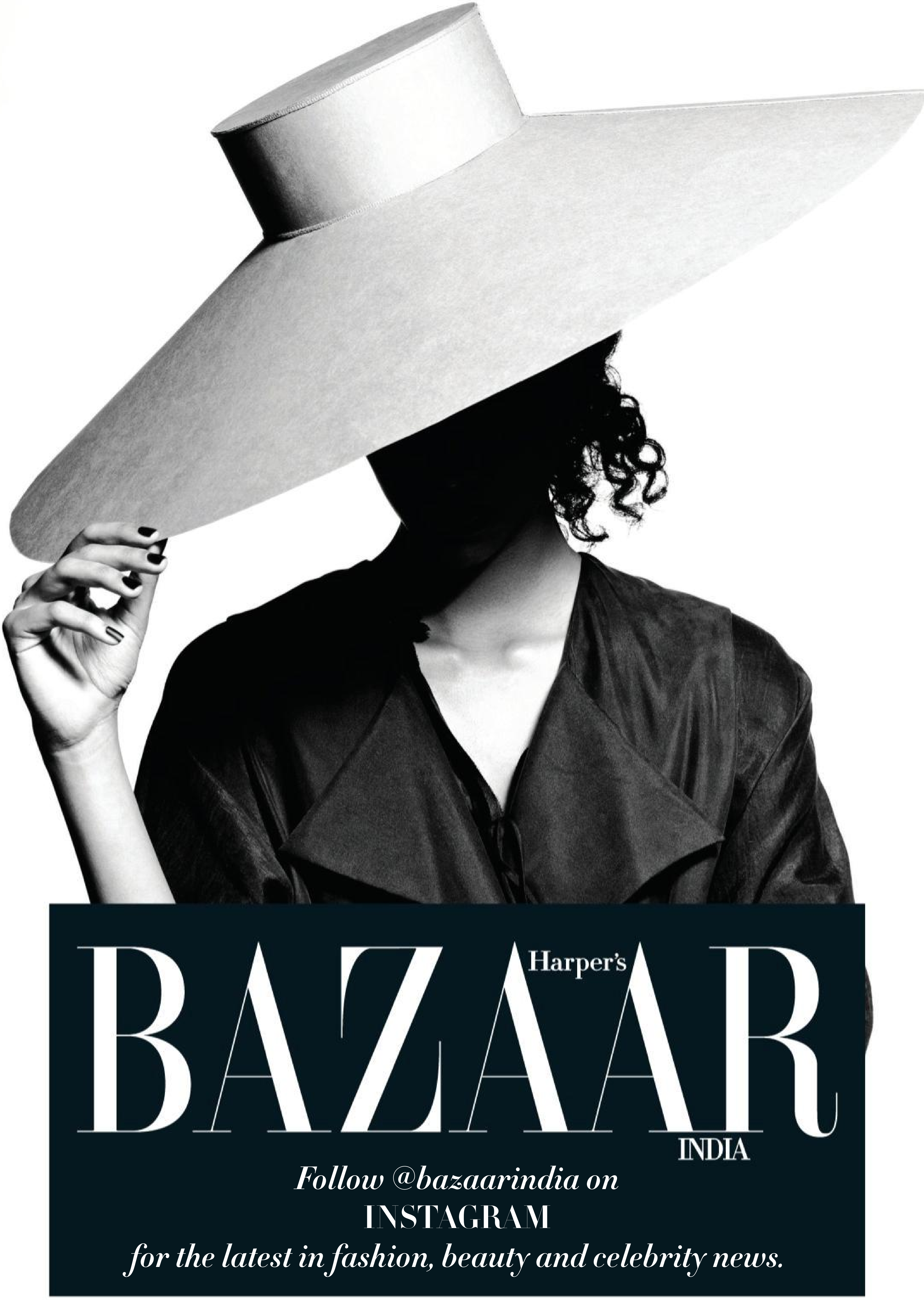


Silk dress and matching trousers, Lanvin; raffia tote bag, Ancient Greek Sandals, and jacquard purse, all Vivienne Westwood; gold and diamond ring and gold, sapphire and diamond ring, both Boodles



Raffia bag, Celine; jacquard shirt, Yuhan Wang; cotton knit top, Isabel Marant; Cotton skirt, Max Mara

Model: Beatriz at Hive Management.Make-up: Sogol Razi. Hair: Hiroshi Matsushita. Fashion Assistant: Freya Watson.


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CRIMSON TIDE

Strikingly powerful and unabashedly feminine, bank on red—and its many iterations—to sail through summer.

Photographs by RODRIGO PALMA
Creative Direction and Styling by ALONSO MURILLO

MODEL: KAREN AT QUETA ROJAS. MAKE-UP: DAVO STHEBANE, USING SISLEY. MAKE-UP ASSISTANT: ANNA MORTERA. PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT: JUAN BUCHARD. FASHION ASSISTANT: BAUTISTA. LOCATION: DMA STUDIOS.

Sisley Le Phyto Rouge Limited Edition Lipstick in N°44 Rouge Hollywood and Le Phyto Gloss N°1 Moon

Bodysuit, Eva Urías; scarf, stylist's own; earrings, Pandora



Sisley Limited Edition Le Phyto Rouge Lipstick in N°16 Beige Beijing

Dress, Máxima Murillo; earrings, stylist's own



Sisley Limited Edition
Le Phyto Rouge Lipstick
in N°44 Rouge
Hollywood and Le Phyto
Gloss in N°1 Moon
Scarf, stylists's own;
earrings, Pandora



Sisley Limited Edition
Le Phyto Rouge
Lipstick in N°200
Rose Zanzibar



Sisley Le Phyto Rouge
Limited Edition
Lipstick in N°44
Rouge Hollywood





Sisley Le Phyto Rouge Limited Edition Lipstick in N°44 Rouge Hollywood and Le Phyto Gloss N°1 Moon

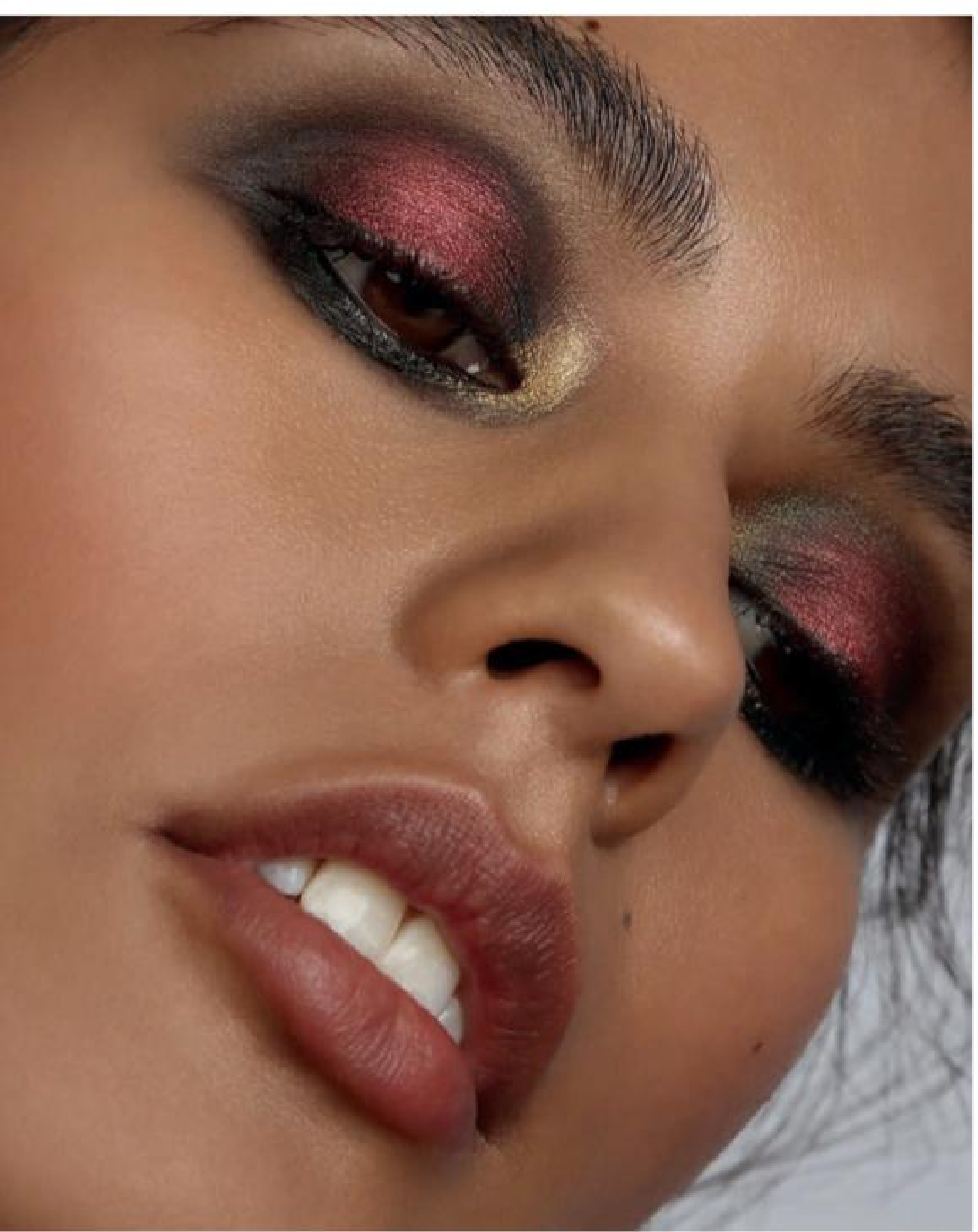
Bodysuit, Eva Urías; scarf, stylist's own; earrings, Pandora

Model: Karen at Queta Rojas. Make-Up: Davo Sthebane, using Sisley. Make-up Assistant: Anna Mortera. Photography Assistant: Juan Buchard. Fashion Assistant: Bautista. Location: DMA Studios.

FACE OF THE FUTURE

With skincare-led social media trends moving at lightning speed, where is the multi-billion-dollar industry headed? Experts weigh in with their thoughts, opinions, and predictions on the future of skincare. By EMILY ALGAR

It is hard to separate the wheat from the chaff when it comes to skincare, especially with trends emerging from social media. Although it is tempting to try out these social media beauty hacks, beware that your skin may end up the worse for wear. Slugging for instance, where occlusive moisturisers are applied on the skin overnight to seal in moisture, may potentially cause breakouts for those with oily or acne-prone skin. With such viral trends disappearing by the time the next new hacks roll around, we wanted to look even further into the future. Who better to turn to than industry experts who founded their own beauty brands and are deeply attuned to the evolving needs of their clientele? With more skin in the game than your average beauty influencer, they take a look into the crystal ball to tell us what will we be putting on our faces for the next decade and beyond.



TECH FIRST, TOPICALS SECOND

Professor Augustinus Bader And Charles Rosier, Co-Founders of Augustinus Bader

Augustinus Bader is a beauty brand with both science and social currency in spades. Co-founded by German doctor Augustinus Bader and financier Charles Rosier, its Blue Cream has amassed legions of A-list fans, all of whom swear by the formulas and associated stem cell technology for luminous skin. Rosier and Bader recently closed US$25 million in funding, cementing them as a billion-dollar business just four years post-launch. "We're the only emerging luxury skincare and haircare brand with a real chance to disrupt the hierarchy of established players," says Rosier. "We have already broken out from the emerging brands, and with our current growth trajectory, we'll be there in a few years."

The original Cream and Rich Cream continue to be crowd favourites, but the offering has grown into a complete suite of skincare, haircare, and ingestibles. As for the year ahead, the newness will slow down, but not the scientific approach. "My approach has always come more from a medical standpoint than a traditional beauty developer," Bader explains. The hero ingredient, a patented amino acid compound called TCF8, is from the field of epigenetics, a space both Bader and Rosier believe will continue to grow in the coming years (in part due to Bader's revolutionary research, which began as a means to treat burns). Its efficacy is in its ability to improve cell communication, a process that breaks down as we age. "An improvement in intracellular communication could counteract ageing processes in a physiological manner," Bader says. When our cells don't 'talk' properly, healthy skin functions stop working, resulting in signs of ageing, pigmentation, and dullness.

Instead of industry trends, every AB formula begins with the clinically-backed ingredient, a new-wave approach that's only set to grow. They're also glowing proof that indie brands are the future, and that cutting-edge technology will be the determining factor between those who succeed in skincare, and those who don't. "We don't think we're a skincare company branching into different things," concludes Rosier. "We're a technology platform that adapts it into products for people looking for solutions."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA LEROY.

A SIMPLIFIED PHILOSOPHY

Tiffany Masterson, Founder of Drunk Elephant

Few figureheads have disrupted the skincare industry in recent years more so than Tiffany Masterson. The Drunk Elephant founder came to the market with a new type of indie beauty brand—one that married vibrant energy with efficacy, and an approach to skin health that was somewhat innovative. The defining characteristic was that every formula avoided what Masterson dubbed 'The Suspicious Six', a group of ingredients she believed to be sensitising, congestive or inflammatory (the list includes essential oils, drying alcohols, silicones, chemical sunscreens, fragrances/dyes, and SLS). With these ingredients removed—proven actives such as acids, retinols and plant extracts could do their job, thus dramatically improving overall skin health.



It's been almost 10 years since the brand was established, but the general ethos is one Masterson still stands behind. In fact, she thinks that consumers are going to become more attuned to skin triggers and shy away from overly complicated routines in 2023 and beyond. "I've noticed a lot of people are now wanting to avoid some of the ingredients that we as a brand have long avoided, like essential oils or fragrance," says Masterton. "Things are shifting as consumers realise what triggers their skin issues."

Looking forward, Masterton hypothesises that the skin barrier is going to become even more important, and our beauty habits will shift to reflect this. "We have already seen a decline in complicated beauty products. I really think consumers are looking for simpler products that are easy to use," she shares. "I think once-a-day cleansing will trend, especially as the importance of maintaining and supporting the acid mantle becomes better understood." It's also her view that barrier-supporting ingredients such as peptides, ceramides, and fatty acids will shine, as we work to protect our skin from tricky environmental conditions. A prime example is the Ceramighty AF Eye Balm, or the skin-strengthening Protini Polypeptide Cream. With micro-trends such as slugging and skin cycling infiltrating the industry, Masterson's view appears to be pretty spot on.

SKINCARE FROM INSIDE OUT

Anna Lahey, Founder of Vida Glow

When we think about skin health, we usually think of topicals. But Anna Lahey has challenged that. Ten years ago, Lahey launched her brand, Vida Glow, with a marine collagen powder. Since then, the humble brand has grown into an ingestible beauty empire. The success thus far is mostly because Lahey and her team use the latest science to deliver proven ingestible formats for common concerns-a trend she believes will grow. "Ingestible beauty is influencing a bi-directional approach to skincare," says Lahey. "I believe topicals and ingestibles can work in tandem to address all layers of skin and accelerate results." A great example of where it's all heading is Clear, a new formula from the brand targeted at breakout-prone skin. "Clear works inside the body on the gut-skin axis to address the concerns that appear on the skin's surface like breakouts, blackheads, whiteheads, and excess oil." With clinical trials showing a 50 percent reduction in symptoms, it seems the inside out approach is working.

Lahey, who has spent the past five years mapping out the future of ingestible skincare, believes that technology will play a lasting role, especially when it comes to delivering ingredients where they're most needed. "In the ingestible category, we expect to see a big focus on the way we deliver ingredients," she shares."We're already seeing this with the cap-in-cap technology we used for Clear-we were able to pair oil-based ingredients with powdered ingredients that historically wouldn't have been able to exist together." She also says 12-step routines are on the decline. The rising cost of living and lack of time post-COVID-19 are partly to blame. but Lahey is convinced consumers will look to structure their routines around "fewer products that deliver bigger and better results". ■



Vivek Sahni, Founder of Kama Ayurveda

THE BEAUTY OF AYURVEDA

Bazaar India Editor NANDINI BHALLA speaks to VIVEK SAHNI, CEO and Co-founder of Kama Ayurveda, about the homegrown luxury beauty brand's 20th anniversary, its journey so far, and what makes Ayurvedic products sustainable and efficacious.



Beautifully packaged offerings by Kama Ayurveda

Nandini Bhalla: How did you come to fall in love with Ayurveda?

Vivek Sahni: "Ayurveda is one of the world's oldest codified systems of medicine for overall well-being. What I love about it is that it is science that goes beyond treating diseases—it is based on the foundation of holistic wellness. Ayurveda also empowers us with a framework to understand the natural shifts in our bodies while offering day-to-day guidance to maintain balance among mind, body, and soul."

NB: We would love to know about Kama Ayurveda's very first product...

VS: "It took us two years to create our first product. Our aim was to address common skin and hair concerns. We introduced Kama with nine Ayurvedic formulations, out of which two continue to be bestsellers. These include our patented formulations: the Kumkumadi Thailam (for glowing skin) and Bringadi Thailam (for healthy hair)."

NB: Tell us about the very first Kama store...

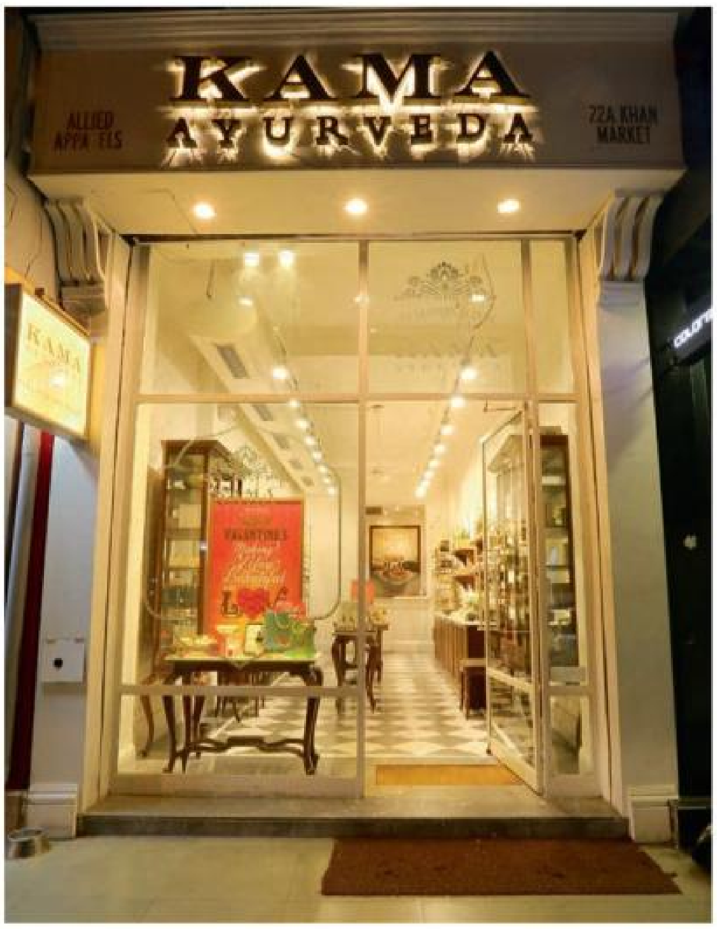
VS: "We opened Kama Ayurveda's first stand-alone store in Khan Market, New Delhi. Creating the space took a lot of thought, energy, and effort. We were involved in everything, right from designing the furniture to visual merchandising (props, creatives, other elements), the incense that would be burnt to the background music, and even the uniforms of the store staff—we looked into all of these touch points. The first store was critical for us...almost a transformational moment. It was the first time the consumer could see, feel, smell, and touch the products, and experience the brand and its story—all in one place."

NB: Tell us about some hero ingredients in Ayurveda...

VS: "The essence of Ayurveda doesn't adhere to one particular ingredient, but to an entire formulation. Ayurveda is about utilising the best of ingredients in an authentic manner. It may require a certain part of the component to meet specific conditions, such as an ingredient, in order to get the best efficacy. Bringadi

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRAND.

(From top to bottom) Kama Ayurveda's first store located in Khan Market, New Delhi; Vivek Sahni at a Kama Ayurveda experiential event; a range of products by the brand





Hair Oil, for instance, can only be made eight months in a year, because ingredients such as eclipta prostrata (bhringaraja), indigofera tinctoria (indigo), and cardiospermum halicacabum (ballon vine) are seasonal and can't be procured during hotter seasons."

NB: How have people's perceptions about Ayurveda changed over the years?

VS: "The way we seek information has changed due to social media. Today, the consumer is well-informed and there is also a shift towards exploring organic and natural formulations. Two decades ago, Ayurveda was considered 'herbal' or 'medicinal', but today, that perception has changed. People now know that Ayurvedic products are efficacious, too."

NB: Tell us the story behind the beautiful packaging...

VS: "Kama products are technically medicines, and we wanted to ensure that they look like contemporary versions of pharmaceutical products. We made sure the packaging looked raw and unadulterated. Our powder masks, for instance, come in stainless tins present in the kitchens of most Indian households. The understated packaging brings us back to our sense of purity and authenticity. However, there are separate design elements for Ayurveda-based formulations. The design, font, and colour scheme are different from the basic tins. We also use different illustrations and paintings created specially by artists. Lastly, we curate a set of prints that are later finalised for product packaging."

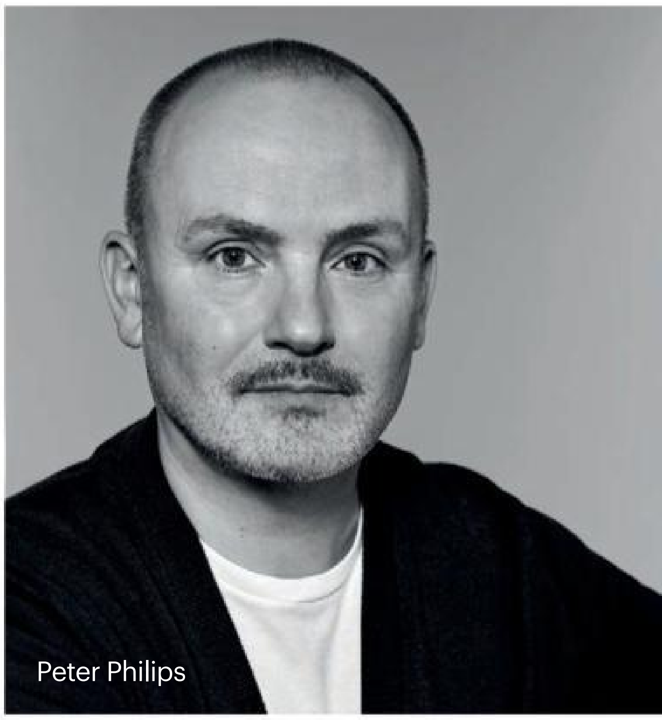
NB: People think commercial beauty solutions, with scientific ingredients, are more efficacious. How one can make Ayurveda a global beauty alternative?

VS: "It is imperative to understand that most Ayurvedic products tap into the Earth's ancient secrets. That is why they have stood the test of time. The best way to highlight and share detailed information around the various benefits Ayurveda offers is to physically test it."

NB: Lastly, which are your favourite Kama products?

VS: "My favourites include Amarrupa Wrinkle Repair & Firming Face Oil, Pure Vetiver Water, and Kumkumadi Rejuvenating & Brightening Night Cream. I also like the Rose & Jasmine Face Wash, which I use religiously to cleanse and shave my face. These products are a part of my daily skincare routine." ■



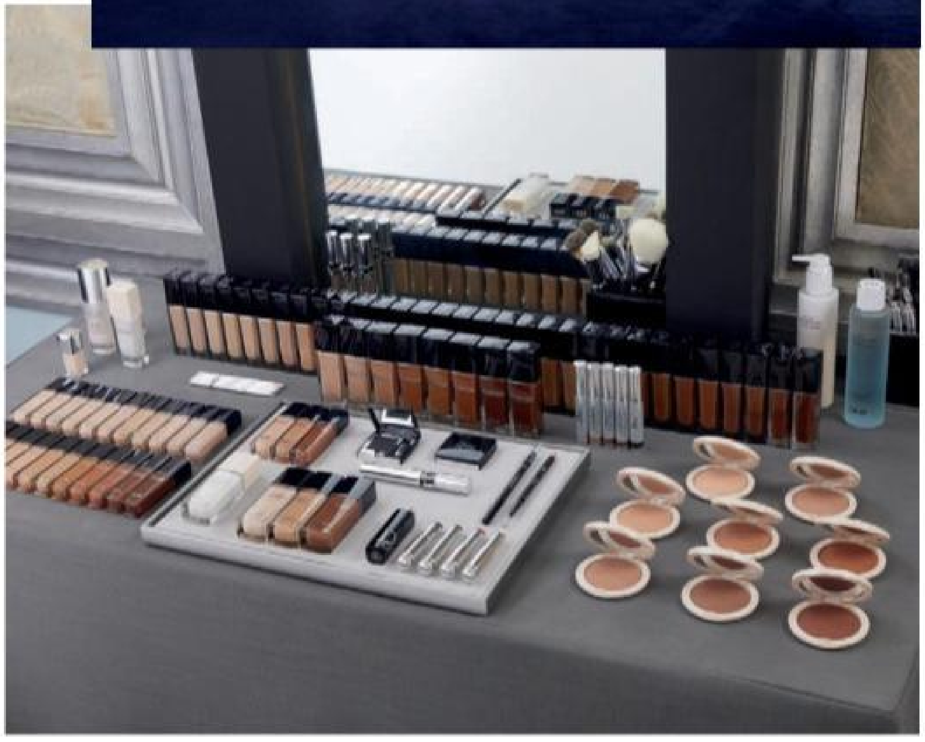

Peter Philips

"DO NOT BECOME A SLAVE TO BEAUTY"

Bazaar India spoke to Peter Philips, the Creative and Image Director of Christian Dior Makeup, ahead of the Maison's Fall 2023 show in Mumbai, about the changing landscape of the industry, his beauty philosophy, and why his make-up collections are designed for real women.

By MEGHNA SHARMA





Harper's Bazaar: The House of Dior is at the forefront when it comes to dictating global trends—in both fashion and beauty. Tell us how you determine runway make-up looks.

Peter Philips: "Every collection that I work on—be it campaigns or runway shows, I am at the service of Maria Grazia Chiuri's vision [Creative Director of Christian Dior]. I, along with the hairstylist, set designer, and the people who take care of the music, are there to fulfill her vision...to ensure that the catwalk show is a memorable one. And the inspiration comes from Maria herself, because her research is very strong and she always has a beautiful moodboard.

On the other hand, when I plan my make-up collections, I like to think outside the 'fashion box'. We don't just care about women who want to be fashionable, but all women who want to look and feel beautiful...it's a much broader spectrum. I consider a lot of other elements, such as the archives, what's happening around the world (in the local or regional markets), the feedback I get from people manning the Dior beauty counters, and the editorial work I do...it is a totally different ball game."

HB: You have been a part of the beauty industry for decades... How has the industry evolved over the years?

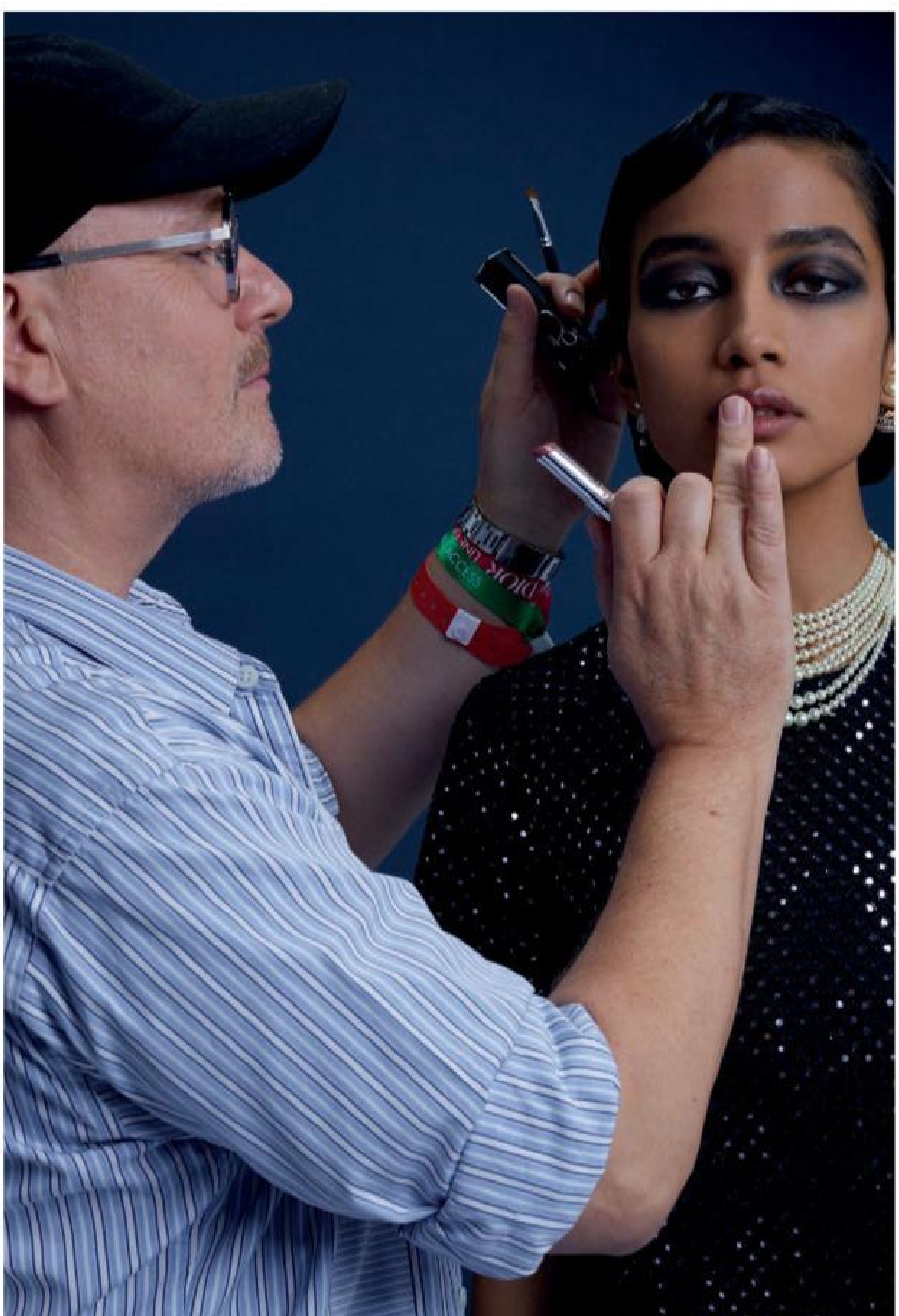
PP: "That makes me sound so old! [*Laughs*] The beauty industry's evolution has been a huge revelation. Especially the transformation that we have seen in the last decade or so, which has been mainly due to social media. Social media has changed everything for everybody—the democratisation of fashion, the democratisation of beauty, the fact that there is so much information available, and that anybody can become an expert by just looking at their device. And these platforms have beauty communities that keep us all on our toes—we have to be very alert."

HB: What are your thoughts on beauty trends being born on social media today?

IMAGES: NOOR SETHI'S TABLE SETTING PHOTOGRAPH BY NAINA GAHLAUT; SARITA HANDA'S TABLE SETTING PHOTOGRAPH BY TANUJ AHUJA AND STYLED BY ANKITA ARYA.

(Right) Backstage image from Christian Dior's Fall 2023 show held in Mumbai; (below) Peter wielding his brush backstage





PP: "It is because of the accessibility that social media offers. I feel this has given the beauty industry the drive to do even better, because everything you do is assessed and criticised by a very objective audience. In the old days, trends were dictated by a niche group of brands and editors...and people would follow it, because that was the only guideline they had."

HB: And now, as you said, anyone can be an expert...

PP: "During my earlier interviews, many of the questions were centred around insecurities about beauty. Editors and journalists would ask for tips for everything—foundation, lipstick application, eyeliner, mascara, or how to cover-up something. And in the last seven or eight years, I have hardly ever been asked for tips, because the information is already out there. If someone has a question, they can just look it up on Google. And that's a huge step forward, because now people are a lot less intimidated by make-up. And this has also resulted in a lot of research to create better quality products, because of the critical eye of the consumer today."

HB: What's your personal beauty philosophy?

PP: "There are a few basic rules that have remained the same over the years. I have been working for fashion houses for almost 20 years now, and my motto has been to work for beauty. Not every woman wants to be fashionable, not every woman is aware of the latest runway trends, or has the privilege, desire, or interest in fashion... But every woman wants to be beautiful—and that's who I create looks for. I also believe one should not become a slave to beauty—beauty should not stress you out. Beauty should work for you."

HB: What, according to you, makes make-up such a powerful tool of expression?

PP: "It's temporary, so you can experiment with it—if something goes wrong, you can just wipe it off and start afresh. Also, it's evolving constantly, and it's not that expensive. Everyone, in a way, can afford something in beauty. You can have fun with it because it can help you transform."

HB: You had once said in an interview that being a make-up artist is a very intimate job, because you see people at their most vulnerable. Have women become more confident over time and embraced their imperfections?

PP: "I think that's the first time someone has asked me this question. And yes, things have changed. Women and men have become more



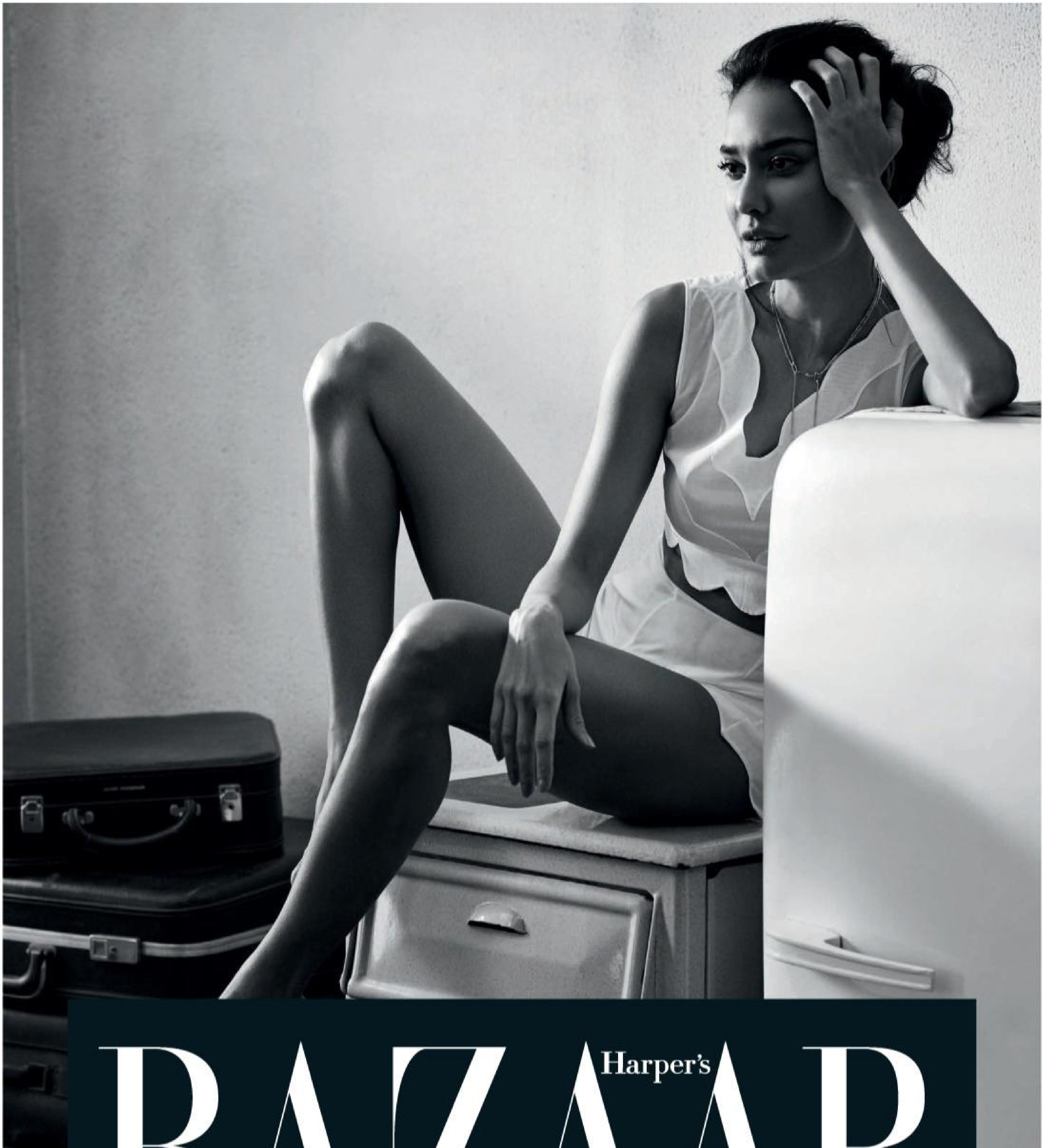
(Top) Christian Dior Fall 2023 show held in Mumbai; backstage image of a model getting ready for the show

confident, because today they have access to so much more information. I come from a fashion background, and when I began working in the industry, it was the era of the top models like Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer, among others. So when women saw photographs from fashion and beauty campaigns, they idealised that aesthetic. It was an intimidating period, and it reflected on women in general. And then there was a period where we were overwhelmed with over retouched images, and most people didn't know that those images were retouched. Suddenly, there were advertisements with poreless and hairless skin, leaving people feeling insecure. But social media allowed people to raise awareness—that none of it is real...it's a filter! And this made real women realise that they can look fabulous without having 'perfect' features. Also, diversity is key, because at the end of the day, what we bring forward gives women confidence—the confidence to be themselves and express themselves."

HB: Dior has had a long-standing relationship with India, and this collection celebrates the crafts and artisans of the country. Has India ever inspired you to create make-up looks?

PP: "Absolutely! I come from Belgium, which is very dark and grey. And India is known for the most amazing colour combinations, flavours, scents, fantasies, and fairy tales. I have been to India multiple times over the last 20 years, and it has been kind of overwhelming to soak it all in, but it is also very inspiring. If you look at the art, paintings, fabrics, jewellery...there is beauty everywhere. It is magnificent...a feast for the eyes. And that's very inspiring." ■





Harper's BAZAAR INDIA

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(Clockwise) Tory Burch campaign shot, the Essence Of Dreams fragrance collection, and Designer Tory Burch

"WOMEN ARE NATURAL LEADERS"

In a Bazaar India exclusive, designer, businesswoman, and philanthropist Tory Burch discusses her new fragrance collection, the idea behind launching her eponymous brand, and the women who have inspired her. By MEGHNA SHARMA



Harper's Bazaar: Tory, your eponymous brand, is nearly two decades old. Tell us about how the Tory Burch woman has evolved since the brand's inception?

Tory Burch: "I don't think about a particular kind of woman when designing a collection—I think about all women, and how I can help them feel confident and beautiful. As I continue to evolve as a designer and as a person, I feel our patrons are evolving with me. I am taking more risks with colour, silhouettes, and layering, and I love seeing how our customer puts their own spin on the collection."

HB: Congratulations on the launch of the Essence of Dreams collection, your new fragrance line...

TB: "India is an important market for us, and it holds a very special place for me personally. So I knew I wanted to bring our Essence of Dreams collection here as soon as possible. We spent nearly two years developing these perfumes. I knew I wanted to build a full collection—not just one scent—and that took some time. Fragrance is so personal, and I don't see women wearing just one anymore; they are collecting scents to alternate, mix, and layer."

HB: Were you actively involved in creating these scents?

TB: "Creating these fragrances was incredibly personal for me. I have lost count of how many versions we went through before landing on the perfect fragrances. We spent a lot of time thinking about the dreams and emotions each one would evoke.

Divine Moon represents peace—it transports me to my garden in Antigua, where I feel an overwhelming sense of tranquility. Sublime Rose represents love, and is a new, modern twist on a classic rose—it reminds me of the garden in Paris, where my husband proposed to me. Electric Sky is energising and vibrant, channelling absolute freedom, while Mystic Geranium instills joy. It has this contrast of geranium leaf, bergamot, and rich cedarwood. Cosmic Wood feels optimistic and magical, with notes of vetiver"

HB: Which notes, in particular, are you drawn towards?

TB: "I have always been drawn to vetiver—it was my father's favourite scent. And I love adding wood to almost everything; our Sublime Rose fragrance is a warm, unexpected mix of rose and freesia with a woody undertone."

HB: What prompted you to launch the Tory Burch Foundation?

TB: "I started our company to start a foundation. My concept was to create a global lifestyle brand that could support the work of women, particularly female entrepreneurs.

I am so proud f everything we have achieved in the past 14 years, but our Fellows Program stands out. It is a year-long fellowship for female founders in the US, and we offer mentorship, access to capital, education, and networking. Nearly 30 percent of our Fellows reach $1 million [8.2 crore in rupees] in revenue, which indicates a sustainable business, compared to just 4.2 percent of all women-owned businesses in the US."

"WOMEN NEED SAFE SPACES TO THRIVE, AND THEY NEED A NETWORK OF LIKE-MINDED ENTREPRENEURS TO ENDURE THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF LAUNCHING A BUSINESS."

HB: Why do you think sisterhood is important?

TB: "I have always been inspired by women's unique strengths. Women are natural leaders—they are resilient, visionary, collaborative, and tenacious. They are long-term thinkers, they are incredible multi-taskers, and, in my experience, they often handle stress better than men. I could go on and on...I am a big proponent of women."

HB: Tell us about female mentors who have helped you.

TB: "My mother, Reva [Robinson], is still my North Star. In addition to being the most effortlessly stylish woman I know, she is fearless, strong, and always optimistic. From a young age, she and my father instilled in me the confidence to believe in myself and follow my dreams. Her advice has always been to 'Think of negativity as noise'—something I remind myself of even today."

HB: What do you think women can do to help other women succeed?

TB: "Community building is a top priority at our Foundation. Women need safe spaces to thrive, and they need a network of like-minded entrepreneurs to endure the highs and lows of launching a business. Simply talking to someone who can relate to your challenges—and has likely gone through similar problems themselves—can be transformative. We see the entrepreneurs in our Fellows Program helping each other and supporting each other's businesses, and it's a ripple effect. They introduce their networks to those businesses, who then become supporters, and it grows and grows."

HB: Lastly, has India inspired you in any way? Would you consider launching an India-specific scent?

TB: "India has inspired me from the very beginning—the art, the craftsmanship, the people, the music, the history. It is my favourite place to visit over and over; despite my countless trips over the years, there is still so much more to see. When I create a fragrance, I am interested in capturing a feeling or an emotion, rather than evoking a specific place. But the cardamom in Cosmic Wood does remind me of wandering through the spice markets of Southern India." ■

BEAUTY NEWS

All that's fresh in the world of beauty right now



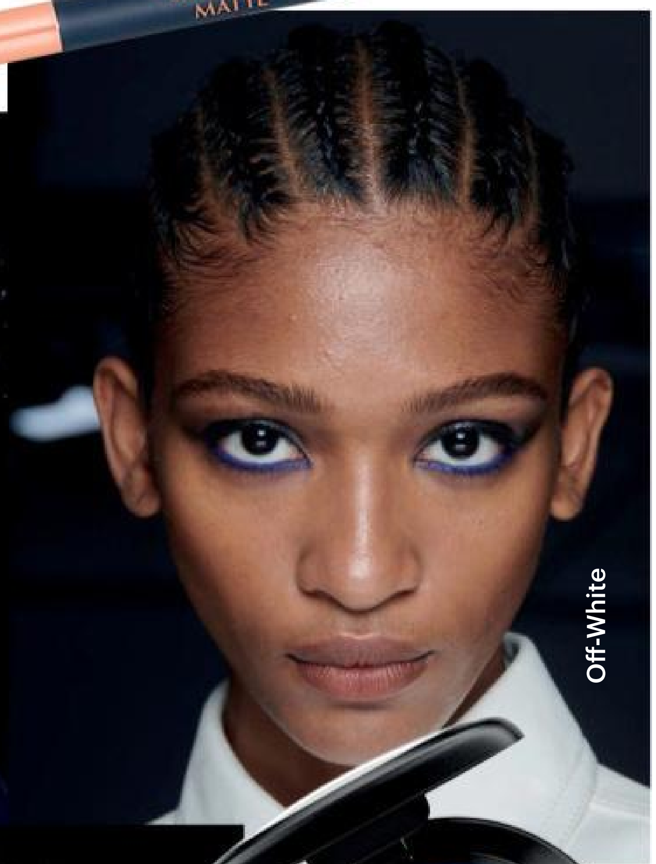
Charlotte Tilbury Eye Colour Magic Liner Duo in Super Blue, ₹2,900



Dior DiorShow Iconic Curl Mascara, ₹3,000



Etro



Off-White



M·A·C Cosmetics Eye Shadow in The Shadows Frost , ₹1,900



Stila Shimmer & Glow Liquid Eye Shadow in Vivid Sapphire, price on request



Givenchy Le Rouge Night Noir Lipstick in N° 4 Night in Blue, ₹3,625



Off-White

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Shades of blue always make an appearance on the Spring/ Summer runways, be it through fashion or beauty. And this season has brought with it some distinct make-up looks that are not for the faint-hearted. Starting with the deep blue lips at Etro that definitely make a statement. If you are brave enough to wear this colour, we recommend pairing it with a clean face to let your lips do all the talking. Next, the kohl-rimmed eyes at Off-White, which is not just a more wearable look, but also an extremely easy one to recreate—all you need is a water-proof pencil to line your eyes in the style of your choice. Want to take it a notch higher? Add blue mascara to the mix.

SUMMER [HAIR] CARE PACKAGE

Keep your mane strong and shiny in warmer months with the help of Olaplex's N°4 Bond Maintenance Shampoo and N°5 Bond Maintenance Conditioner. The UVA and UVB rays don't just damage the skin, but also our hair... This coupled with chlorine in swimming pools and salty seawater can leave strands dull and lifeless. Olaplex's N°4 and N°5 treatments are an ideal duo to protect and repair the hair. The shampoo, suitable for all hair types, is a reparative formula that reduces breakage and strengthens hair, leaving it healthier and shinier with each use. While the conditioner nourishes the strands and tackles frizz and split ends by re-linking broken bonds.



Olaplex N°4 Bond Maintenance Shampoo and N°5 Bond Maintenance Conditioner, ₹2,950 each

STAY STRONG

O.P.I's new range of paints will keep your nails healthy and your manicure stylish. The Nature Strong collection, featuring plant-based ingredients, boasts seven beautiful shades inspired by the recent Barbiecore fashion movement. With ingredients derived from sugarcane, manioc, wheat, potatoes, corn and clay, the pigmented formula dries quickly, is chip-resistant, and offers brilliant shine that lasts up to seven days.



[L-R] O.P.I Nature Strong Nail Lacquer in Knowledge Is Flower, Mauvement, and Thisle Make You Bloom, ₹875 each

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS

BAZAAR LOVES



Tom Ford Ébène Fumé EDP, price on request

SPIRITUAL SENSUALITY

That's what Tom Ford was looking to achieve with their latest launch: Ébène Fumé. If meditative calm could be bottled up, this scent—featuring notes of palo santo wood, ebony wood, and rose—would be it. The woody-amber accords have an uplifting quality and work well for day and night. Douse yourself in this luxurious blend, to steal serene moments through the day.

(Clockwise) Chanel Les 4 Rouges Yeux Et Joues Exclusive Creation Eyeshadow and Blush Palette in Tendresse; Le Liner De Chanel Liquid Eyeliner in Rouge Noir; Baume Essentiel Multi-Use Glow Stick in Rouge Frais, all prices on request

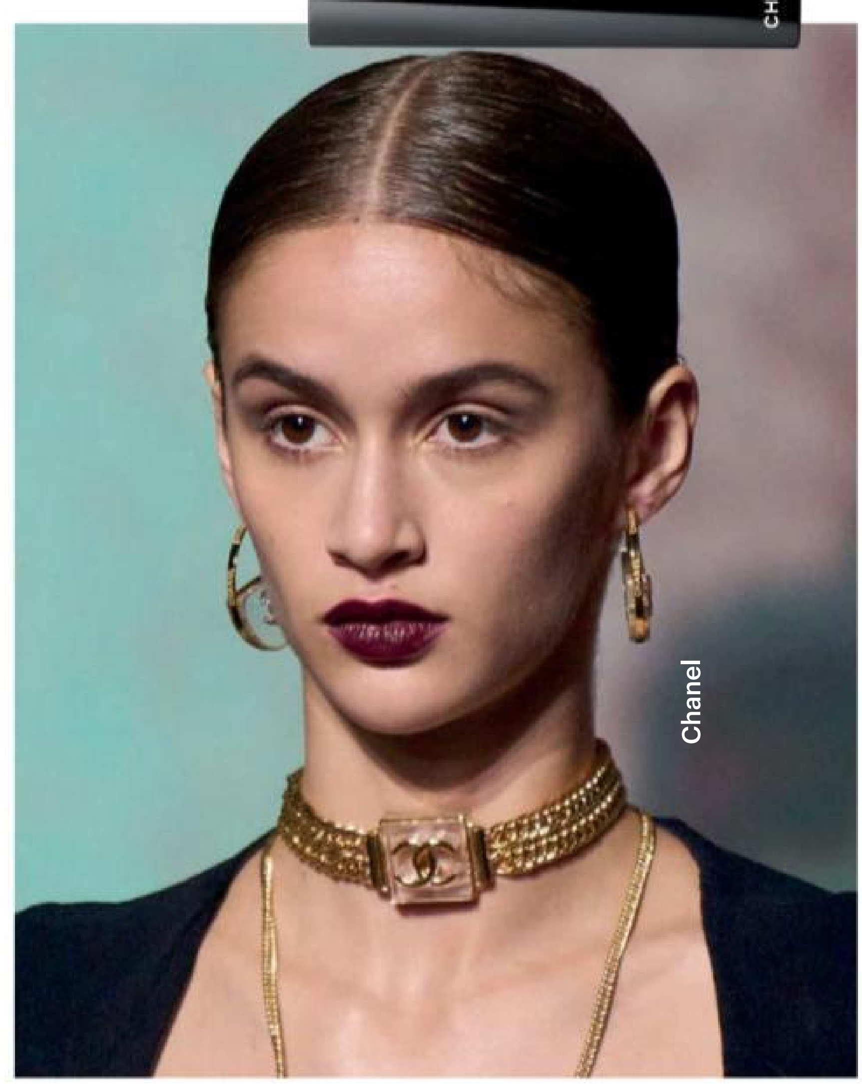


SUMMER REFRESH

Chanel's new make-up collection is a treat to look at and to wear. A conscious step away from the run-of-the-mill warm-weather shades, this range is a striking amalgamation of various shades of red. Seen as a symbol of life, this powerful colour, along with its various iterations, features in the form of eyeshadow palettes, mascara, and lip products, allowing everyone to create a unique harmony of colours as per taste.

Chanel Rouge Allure Velvet Luminous Matte Lip Colour in La Fascinante, price on request





Chanel

THE PORE SQUAD

Benefit Cosmetics has added new members to its iconic POREfessional range. Designed specifically to minimise, clear, and smooth the look of pores, the new product roster features foam and oil cleansers, masks, moisturiser, and a wand that work in tandem to a reveal smoother, clearer complexion.



[L-R] Benefit Cosmetics The POREfessional Get Unblocked Pore-Clearing Makeup-Removing Cleansing Oil, ₹4,000; Good Cleanup Pore-Purifying Foaming Cleanser, ₹2,950; Tight 'N' Toned Pore-Refining AHA+PHA Toning Foam, ₹3,500; Speedy Smooth Quick Smoothing Pore Mask, ₹4,000; Smooth Sip Lightweight Smoothing Moisturizer for Pores, ₹4,500; Deep Retreat Pore-Clearing Clay Mask ₹3,990

By Meghna Sharma



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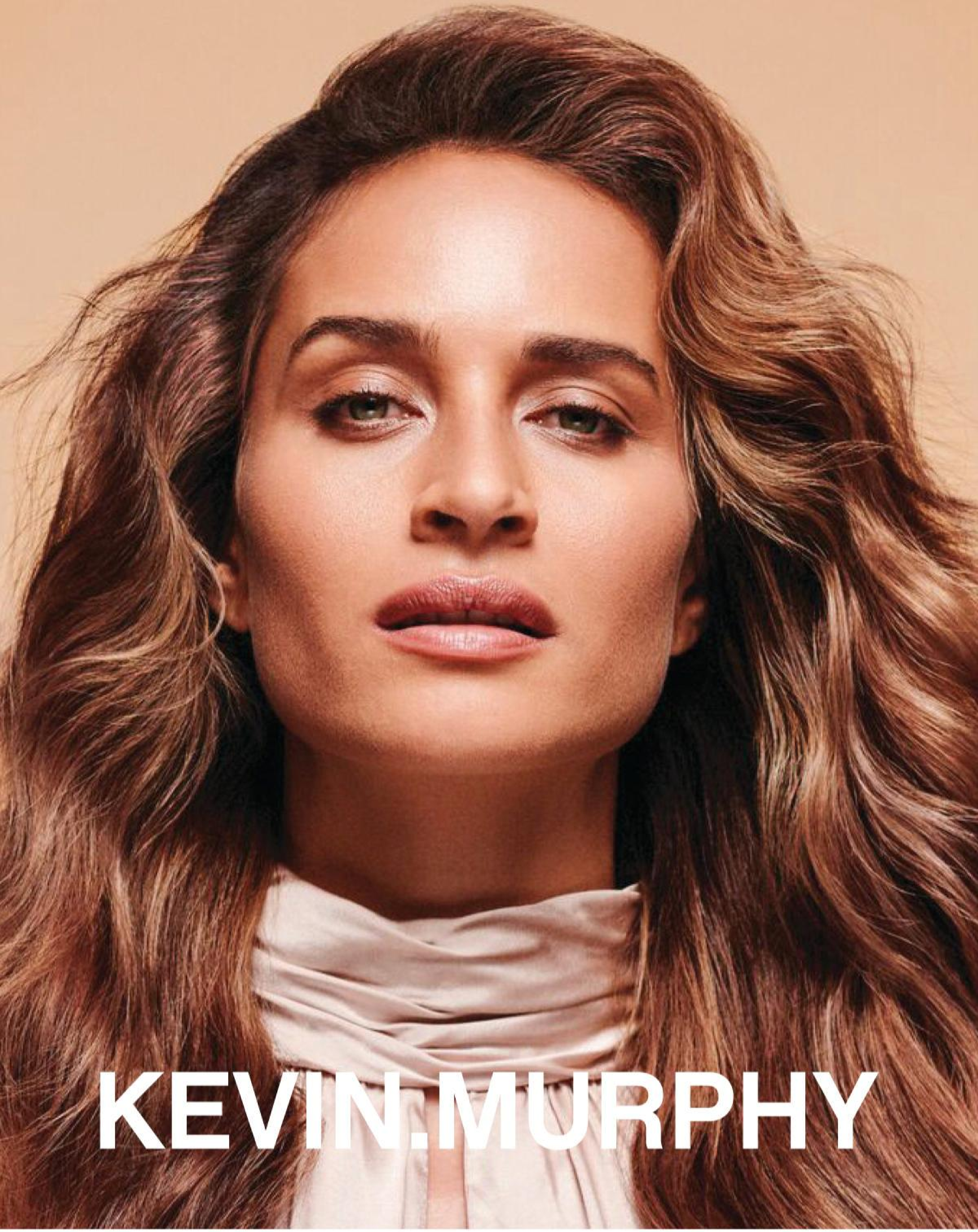
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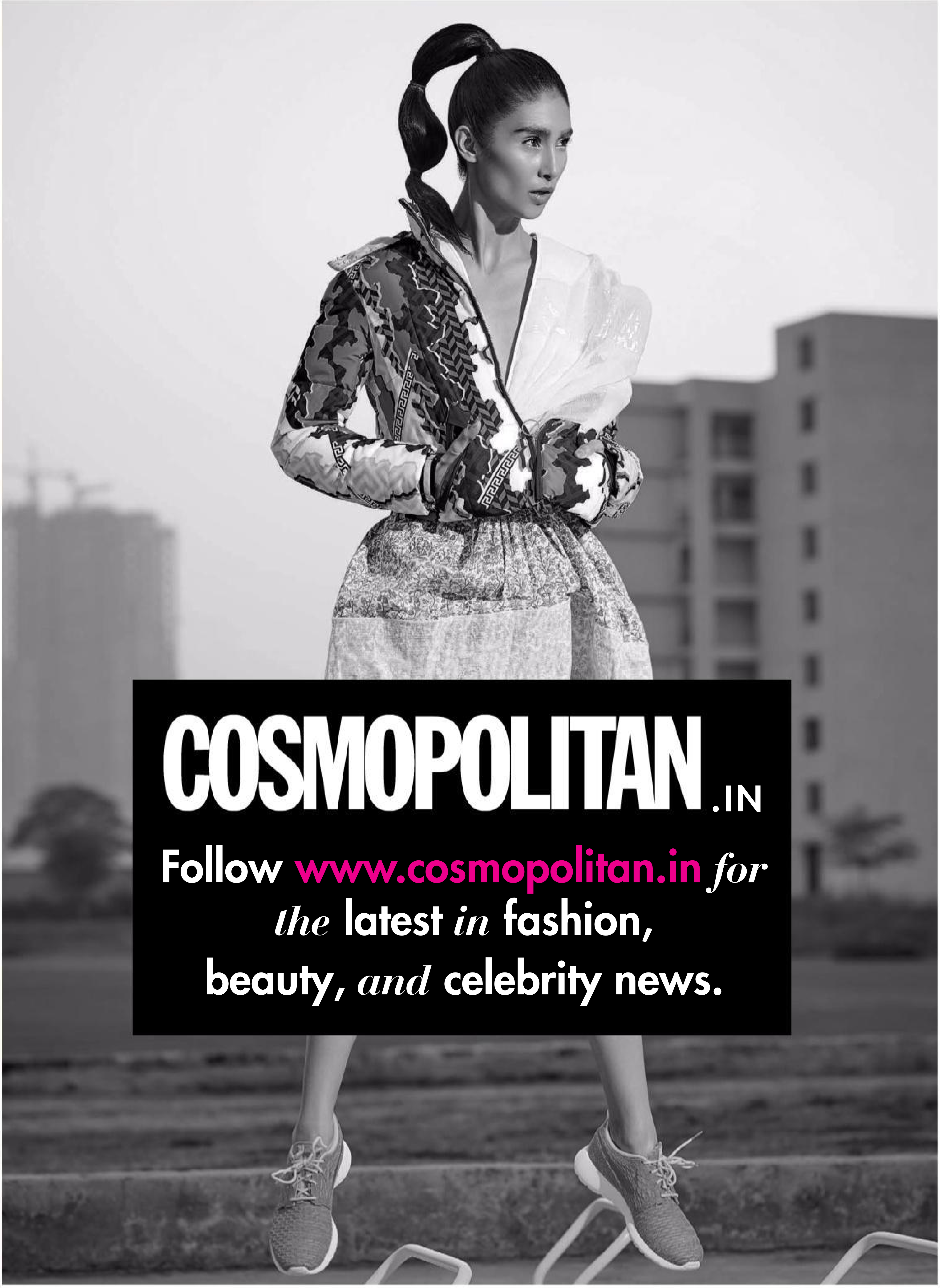
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BAZAAR ESCAPE



Sunrise at Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia

THE PIOUS KINGDOM

Religious monuments, delectable cuisine, and nature's remarkable landmarks, Cambodia is steeped in history...and awaits your arrival.

IMAGES: GETTYIMAGES.COM



My Cambodian Adventure

From the chaos of a circus to the calm of the jungle, travel writer CRYSTAL WOO opens up her travel journal as she chronicles her time in Cambodia.

IMAGES: GETTYIMAGES.COM



Monks sitting at the Angkor Wat Temple

FRIDAY, 3:30PM

The flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia, from Kuala Lumpur, is a breeze. Just a little over two hours, and I am with the Khmer people. Siem Reap International Airport is modest in size, yet unmistakably modern—I arrive without a hitch. Everyone likely knows Siem Reap as the seat of the legendary Angkor Wat (early 12th century), the largest religious monument in the world that continues to capture the imagination of many. This trip, however, is to discover Siem Reap's other sides. At the arrival hall, Chivoan (G1) from Bensley's Pool Villa is here for the pick-up right on time. Only a short drive away from the airport, and in the laid-back neighbourhood of colonial shophouses bearing French influences, Bensley's Pool Villas Shinta Mani Angkor is ideal for a carefree getaway.

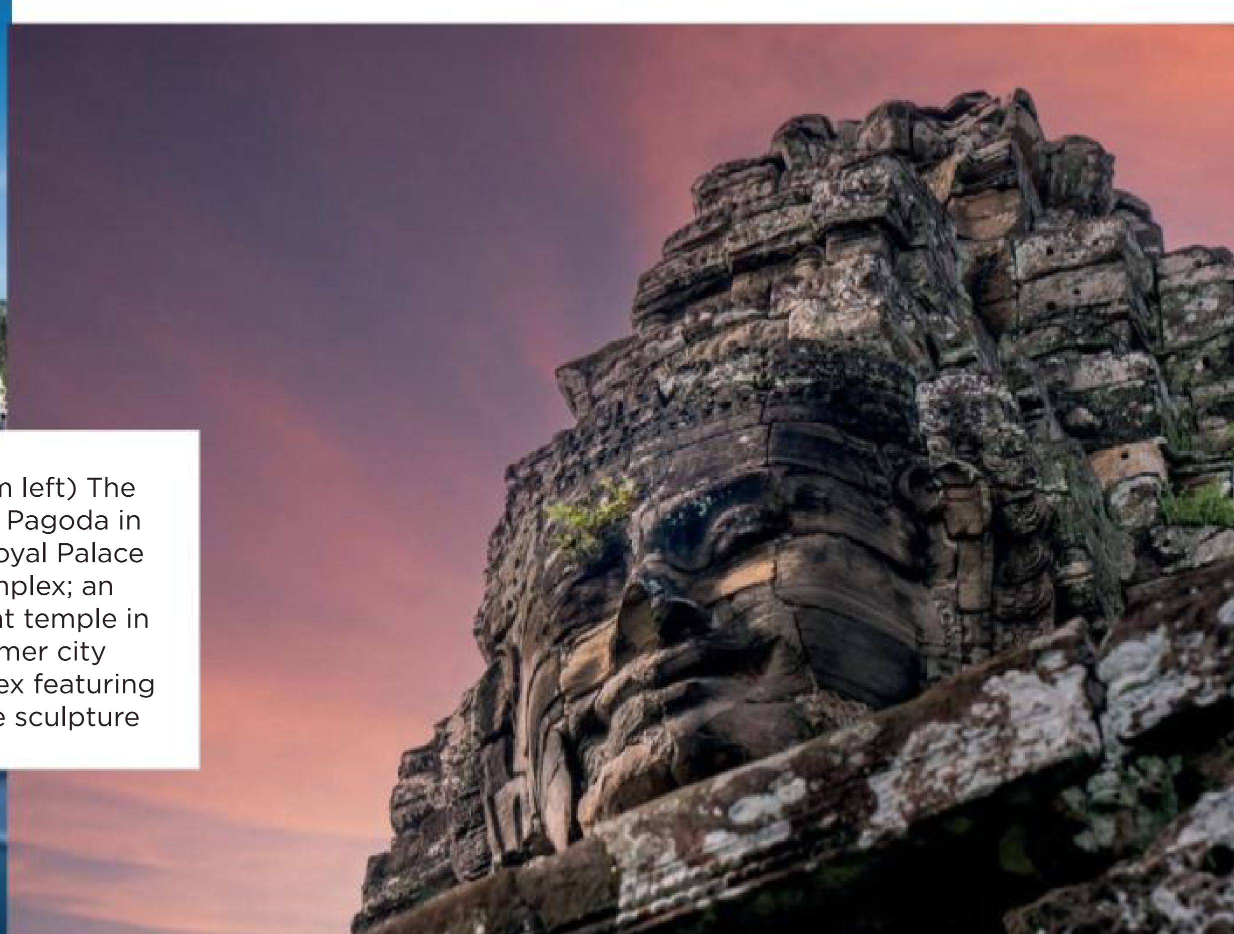
4:05PM

After a fast check in, walking into a quiet corner, the black door of Bensley's Pool Villa reveals itself. Two floors connected by a flight of stairs as pretty as a picture, and with one's own plunge pool to boot, the villa opens up to an interesting layout, with semi-outdoor walkways from the front yard to the shower at the back, offering surprises at every turn. From the ancient Khmer art details of King Jayavarman VII's robes to the striking black and white floor tiles, the design is very fetching; instead of occupying maximum horizontal space, Bensley's Villa plays more with vertical height, bringing to life a certain kind of swag. In the upper floor, soft yellow flowers dangle like chandeliers, complete with an inviting daybed and a bar counter to host friends. In the bedroom downstairs, a king-sized bed shares space with a tropical garden. Plus, the espresso machine and I become best friends overnight. But as amazing as the villa is, I need to get going. The circus is in town.

6:00PM

At the tail end of Sok San Road, after rows of pubs and bars with neon lights, I turn up at the Big Top circus. Home to Phare, the Cambodian circus, this location is easy to find, and only a short tuk-tuk away from Bensley's Villa. The show starts at 8pm, but the crowd is here early for the one dollar beer and local street food. Backstage, Phare performers are getting ready. Trained in the art of acrobatics, aerial acts, body contortion, tightrope walking, music, and dance—more than your usual circus folks—Phare [pronounced as 'far] is French for 'lighthouse', and Phare, the Cambodian Circus is an extension of what began in 1994...between nine Cambodian art students and their French art teacher following the cruel carnage of





(From left) The Silver Pagoda in the Royal Palace complex; an ancient temple in Khmer city complex featuring a face sculpture





(Clockwise from top) Angkor Wat; a traditional dish called *Amok* served with chicken or fish; a Buddha statue inside the Bayon Temple



Khmer Rouge. They formed a school and pledged to shine the light on local arts, and to support the underprivileged youth; all Phare performers are proud school alumni.

Some say, old wounds cast long shadows, perhaps Phare performers found a way to heal better together, transmuting growing pains into art. Under the Big Top, audiences are given a hand fan, and I get the best seat in the house, right in the middle. Tonight's show, *Khmer Metal*, is set in a Phnom Penh bar, and tells the story of love, desire, money, and a glimpse into the trials of modern-day Cambodians, expressed through various gravity-defying stunts, comedy, music, and dance. An original masterful composition, the music is at times haunting, mixed with traditional Khmer rhythm and beats, adding layers to the overall experience. Switching from instrument to instrument—drums and electric guitar to xylophone—these talented musicians showcased their skill with great passion. This is, indeed, a different kind of circus...purposeful and visceral.

SATURDAY, 7:00AM

A beautiful new day to venture out to the outskirts of town. A small village with big stories, I learn about the existing struggles of villagers in breaking the shackles of poverty, and how Shinta Mani Foundation is helping them to secure a better life. A young girl gets to go to school and runs a grocery stall in her village (a Netflix documentary waiting to be made). Here, there is a school, where there is access to clean water and new shelters—the fundamentals that were missing for far too long. Meaningful and more than skin deep, this visit brings me down to earth...getting to know the people and giving back to the communities in small ways. I root for them. 'Shinta Mani' means good hearts in Sanskrit, and at the risk of sounding cheesy, this heart is open. A portion of the hotel which keeps the Shinta Mani Foundation alive, and goes further to improve the lives of the Khmer people.

2:00PM

Flying domestically from Siem Reap, I disembark at Sihanoukville International Airport on my way to Shinta Mani Wild, the unnamed road. I thank my lucky stars that the brand-new expressway just started its operations days ago, bending the travel time to close to two hours, and making the car journey smooth and pleasant.

4:00PM

Exiting the highway, the size of the roads I am travelling on offer telltale signs that the elusive Shinta Mani Wild observes 15 low-impact tents, gently placed in a massive 865 acres river valley (imagine the size of Central Park, more or less). Entering deeper into the Cardamon National Forest, the largest in Cambodia and the second largest virgin rainforest in Southeast Asia, I am eager to check in, but feel a little daunted. Shinta Mani Wild has abandoned conventional desk formalities, and guests simply check in via a 400-metre zip line, which just happens to be the longest in Cambodia. When the driver pulls to a stop, I meet Masin, my Alfred Pennyworth, for the first time. Still in a daze, Masin leads me to the Eastern Tower with its many steps. On our way up, the high view takes my breath away, and foregoing better judgement, I look down for a nano second and vertigo slips in...but giving up is not an option. So 102 steps later, we reach the top, smiling. Wasting no time, Masin briefs me on safety as



"Some say, old wounds cast long shadows, perhaps Phare performers found a way to heal better together, transmuting growing pains into art...."

he straps me into the zip line harness. "Ready...go!," his calm words echo away from me as I zip down nervously. Flying across tree tops, gushing rivers and waterfalls, fear and excitement take hold, but the experience? Priceless. Finally touching down at the Landing Zone Bar, a refreshing tequila drink is served to calm the nerves. With that, I am officially checked in.

6:30PM

It takes a little bit of walking to get to my tent, but I don't mind. Along the narrow gravel path, wild butterflies swoop in as if welcoming my presence, as do some squirrels. I wonder if Absolem is nearby. Shy gibbons are known to hang around this part of the jungle, not to mention a long list of endangered animals that count on the Cardamon National Rainforest for survival, among them the Sunda Pangolins, Clouded Leopards, and Sun Bears. It's as if David Attenborough's voice is narrating in my head. My wild tent is a sight for sore eyes. A Goliath-size wooden table perfect for writing (or daydreaming) sits on a deluxe front porch. With vintage fans, books and manuscripts, comfy seatings with bright whimsical art prints, and a well-stocked beast of a fridge...everything here encourages one to stay outside to enjoy the river-view, open air, and Cardamon jungle charms.

Turning the key, I enter my perched nest, which is a hybrid cabin-tent made from hardwood and high quality canvas. There's a leather-bound headboard in vintage tobacco on the king-sized bed, a rotary dial phone, a long double-vanity with charming chrome details, and a petite reading area that looks out onto the jungle. The sun is about to set, and there's nothing more inviting than rays of sunlight that bathe the room in a golden glow. I am in for a most comfortable slumber tonight.

SUNDAY, 7:30AM

After a big breakfast (turmeric chicken rice), I am off into the wild. Early morning hiking in the Cardamon National Rainforest is sparking the explorer in me, trekking on different jungle floors, dodging tree branches, and drinking rainwater from wild pitcher plants, stopping only to listen to the hoots and howls of gibbons. Then out of nowhere, a pristine lake perfect for swimming. With clear waters and tiny fishes dancing around my feet, swimming in the wild is the most refreshing experience. Nature truly is the best playground, and to think only





Siem Reap street, Cambodia

"Nature truly is the best playground and to think only three percent of the primary forest remains. Before we lose even more, there is no time than the present to play our part..."











(Clockwise from top right) a suite at the Shinta Mani Angkor and Bensley Collection pool villa; three Buddhist monks walking inside the Angkor Wat Temple; the Phare circus in Siem Reap; two Khmer Apsara dancers at the Angkor Temple

three percent of primary forest remains in Cambodia. Before we lose even more, there is no time than the present to play our part. Shinta Mani Wild and Wildlife Alliance are leading the way by taking care not to cause harm to the Cardamon National Rainforest, preserving wildlife and putting a stop to illegal logging, mining, and poaching. To date, over 7,000 illegal snares have been removed, and close to 200 illegal logging camps have ceased operations.

2:00PM

Next on the agenda is a boating expedition at the backwaters of Upper Srey Ambel Estuary. Channeling Agatha Christie's S.S. Karnak steamer from *Death on the Nile* (albeit a smaller version, sans murder), this expedition boat has solar panels and a sun deck to laze or snooze on after birdwatching. Rarely do I get to see eagles and white-throated Kingfishers in their natural habitat, 'tis a good time for some tisane or cold beer and snacks. Come dusk, my feet is back on the ground, as I am en route to the next destination, by way of a 4WD (four-wheel drive). The sky is changing colours, and my final night at Shinta Mani Wild is spent at the top of a hill. Bouyed by misty mountains all-around, wine, margaritas, and warm conversations, I can't take my eyes off the big bonfire burning through the night. Exchanging stories with eclectic travellers from Germany, South Africa, and Tibet, I am thankful for the here and now. ■



The November 1949 cover of *Harper's Bazaar* US

AT FIRST GLANCE

The journey of effortlessly being yourself.

How often do women bask in their own glory? Or recognise their beauty, which goes beyond the mirror? Since the inception of Harper's Bazaar in 1867, the magazine has upheld women who are clever, beautiful, and hold liberality in ideas. This 1949 Harper's Bazaar US cover was shot by the late photographer Louise Dahl-Wolfe... She exemplified the modern, post-war woman, and her persona was always both confident and alluring. Which is exactly what we see here—a woman wearing a dramatic bonnet styled with satin gloves, and bare shoulders...against an aura of utter assurance that says the only approval needed is her own.

THE NOVEMBER 1949 COVER OF *HARPER'S BAZAAR* US. WORDS BY: RIA SINGH.

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